

Table with international news briefs and prices for various countries like Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,569

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Tony Greenlade on an unsung hero

The re-emergence of Ben Elton

A German view of British tabloids

My remarkable friend the surgeon



Not just a smug grin in a shiny suit

Hun batters

G2 with European weather

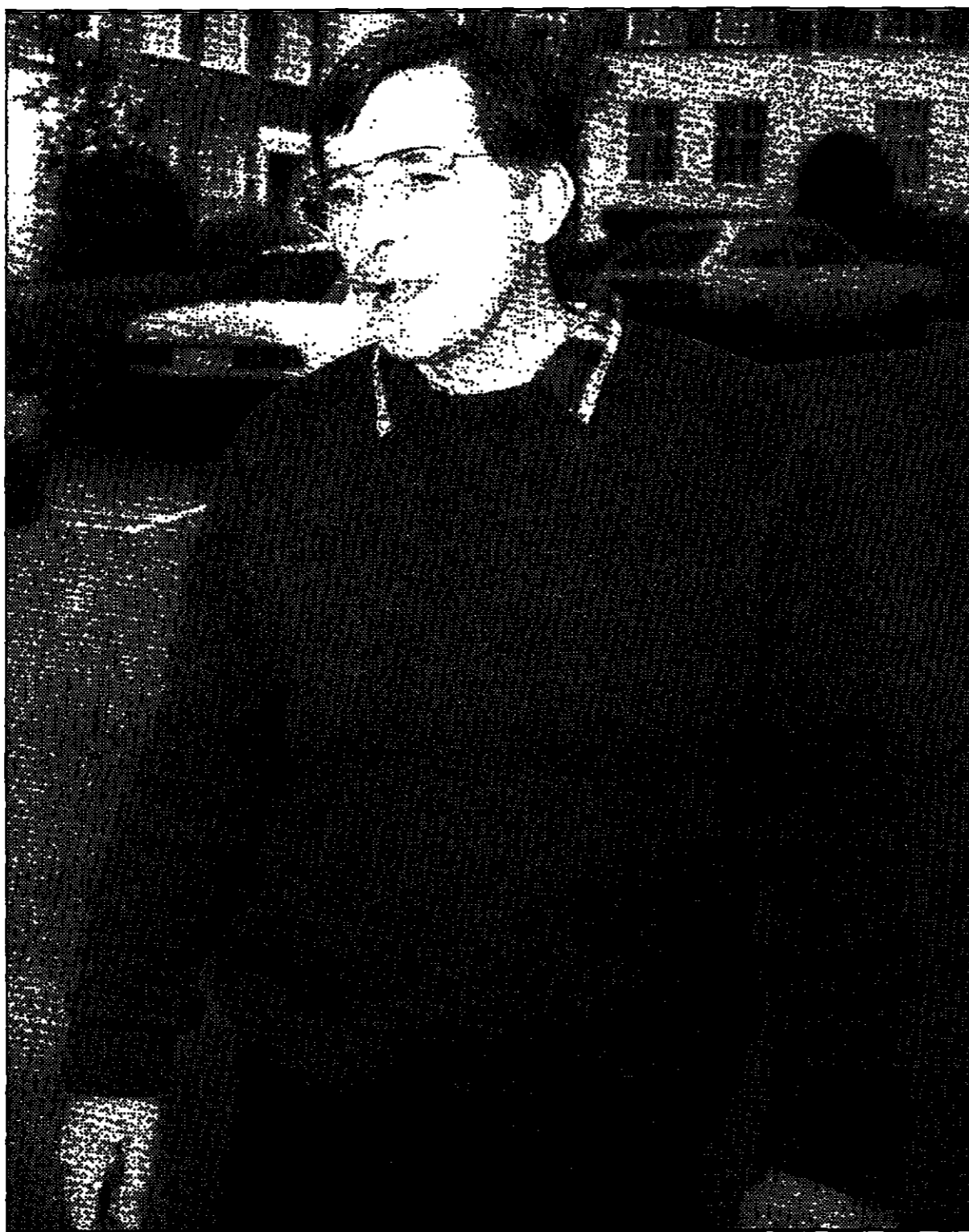
Profile G2 pages 4/5

Media G2 pages 6/9

Sleaze issue returns to haunt Major as Welsh minister quits over affair Paying the price of hypocrisy

Sex and the Tory elite: how they fell from grace

- 1. DAVID MELLOR: heritage minister... 2. TIM YEO: environment minister... 3. LORD CAITHNESS: transport minister... 4. DAVID ASHBY: resigned as a parliamentary private secretary... 5. HARTLEY BOOTH: resigned as a parliamentary private secretary... 6. STEPHEN MILLIGAN: the parliamentary private secretary to Jonathan Aitken... 7. MICHAEL BROWN: resigned from the Whip's Office... 8. ROBERT HUGHES: quit as Citizens' Charter minister... 9. RICHARD SPRING: quit as parliamentary private secretary to the Northern Ireland Secretary...



Rod Richards outside his home in Richmond, south-west London, last night after his resignation

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE politically damaging image of sleaze and personal hypocrisy returned to haunt John Major's government last night when Rod Richards, the junior Welsh Office minister, resigned over allegations of an extra-marital affair...



...AND ON SUNDAYS TOO!

statements that Mr Richards had offered his resignation and it had been accepted. It appears that the Welsh Minister rapidly lost the support of William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, as well as the government whips. The statement added only that his successor as parliamentary under-secretary would be named in due course.

The World's possession of photographs of Mr Richards entering Mr Fehouass's London flat, but later Sir Eric Howells, president of the Conservative Party in Wales, accepted the inevitable. "I am sad because Rod Richards was doing a superb job and his departure from the Welsh Office will leave a vacuum which must be filled quickly," he said. Within the Welsh Labour Party, often reviled by Mr Richards in the most vitriolic language, there was little mourning at his departure from office. Rhodri Morgan, the shadow Welsh minister, said: "Mr Richards wanted to be the Binyamin Netanyahu of Welsh politics, the tough guy fighting off Welsh devolution."

Charges and loans proposed in shake-up of legal aid system

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

STATE-FINANCED loans to fund litigation for the middle classes and the abolition of free legal aid for benefit claimants are among far-reaching changes under consideration in the biggest shake-up of the legal aid system in its 46-year history. The Government, which will publish a white paper outlining radical changes to legal aid later this month, is considering charging people on low incomes, who now get aid free, a one-off payment of £10 or £20. The change, aimed at giving people a stake in their cases and discouraging them from pursuing frivolous claims at the taxpayer's expense, would mean an end to the system under which 70 percent of those who now get legal aid get it free.

help would take the form of a loan, and those who lost their cases would have to pay the winner's legal costs. Unless a general election intervenes, the Government hopes to introduce a bill this autumn or early next year, making radical changes to the structure and delivery of legal aid. Legal aid spending would be capped and aid would no longer be a right for anyone with a meritorious case who passes the means test, but would be subject to a fixed regional budget. It would not be available, as now, through thousands of solicitors' offices, paid at hourly rates. Solicitors and advice agencies would tender for block contracts to do a certain number of cases, paid at a set amount per case. The plans are for the changes to be brought in over seven or eight years, with pilot schemes to test them. Initial block contracts are expected to be limited to the green form advice scheme. As a starting point, an ex-

isting pilot scheme under which advice agencies, as well as solicitors, have been funded to provide legal help will be extended to a much larger number of agencies. But plans by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, to extend legal aid to industrial, social security and other tribunals have been shelved after objections by employment and social security ministers, who feared it would provoke an avalanche of claims. The changes will coincide with wide-reaching reforms to the civil justice system to make it cheaper and more accessible, following final recommendations by Lord Woolf due at the end of July. On his proposed new "fast track" for cases worth up to £10,000, solicitors will be able to claim only a fixed maximum in costs from the other side if their client wins. Eventually this "fixed costs" rule could extend to a much wider range of cases. The reform will make the

cost of litigation much more predictable, opening the way for insurers to offer cover against the cost of losing a case. This has so far been limited to accident cases brought on a "no win, no fee" basis, but representatives of the insurance industry have been meeting officials in the Lord Chancellor's Department to discuss making such cover widely available. In the longer term, Lord Woolf's team is looking at ways of limiting the costs solicitors can charge their own clients. The object is to level the playing field for individual litigants and prevent rich litigants such as companies gaining an unfair advantage. Plans to cash limit criminal legal aid, mooted earlier, are expected to be dropped. Labour opposes cash limits, which Paul Boateng, its legal affairs spokesman, has described as "crude, market-led, NHS style reforms". But the party has stressed that it will make no more money available for legal aid.

Netanyahu pledges to lead all Israelis in search for peace

David Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S prime minister-elect, Binyamin Netanyahu, vowed last night to be the leader of Jews and non-Jews alike, and to continue to seek peace with the Palestinians and his country's other Arab neighbours. In a victory speech laden with conciliatory rhetoric, but without any specific policy pledges, he said he would work to strengthen Israel's peace deals with Egypt and Jordan and would continue negotiations with the Palestinians. "We will also work to further peace deals and coexistence with other Arab states. I call on them also to join the circle of peace," he said. But Mr Netanyahu offered no clue as to how his new government would tackle its first dilemma — the potentially explosive issue of an Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron. The outgoing government of Shimon Peres yesterday passed the buck, saying it would make no decision on the pullout, which was due by

the middle of this month and had been agreed with the Palestinians. Mr Netanyahu's triumphant victory speech, to a delirious audience of rightwing supporters in Jerusalem's Convention Centre, contained little hint of his own and his Likud party's bitter opposition to the outgoing government's land-for-peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Earlier in the day, the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, said that Mr Netanyahu had assured him the peace process would continue. Washington, as the chief ally and sponsor of Israel, is eager to endorse the new leader in the run-up to November's US presidential election. Mr Netanyahu, who is just as eager to receive the blessing of the White House, plans to visit the US at the end of this month. Mr Peres last night insisted that the new government must honour Israel's peace deals with Yasser Arafat. Turn to page 3, column 1

Inside

Britain The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, has started a row by suggesting that night curfews be imposed on children under 10.

World News Vaclav Klaus has been reaffirmed as prime minister of the Czech Republic in the first vote since the break-up of Czechoslovakia.

Finance Investment is in danger of becoming a fetish for the left but this approach leads to lazy analysis.

Sport Michael Schumacher won a rain-lashed Spanish Grand Prix. Championship leader Damon Hill failed to finish after spinning off.

Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 10 G2 Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 15; TV 16



Do you really need 50p more than he does?



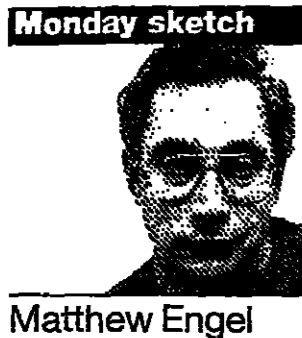
50p a day won't get you very far. But use it to sponsor a child in need and it could go a lot further than you ever thought possible. Just £15 a month helps us provide clean water, health care, basic education, seeds and tools for growing food... all the things that could make life better not just for one child, but everyone in the community.

Actionaid donation form with fields for name, address, and payment details.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Blessed is yet another ailing industry

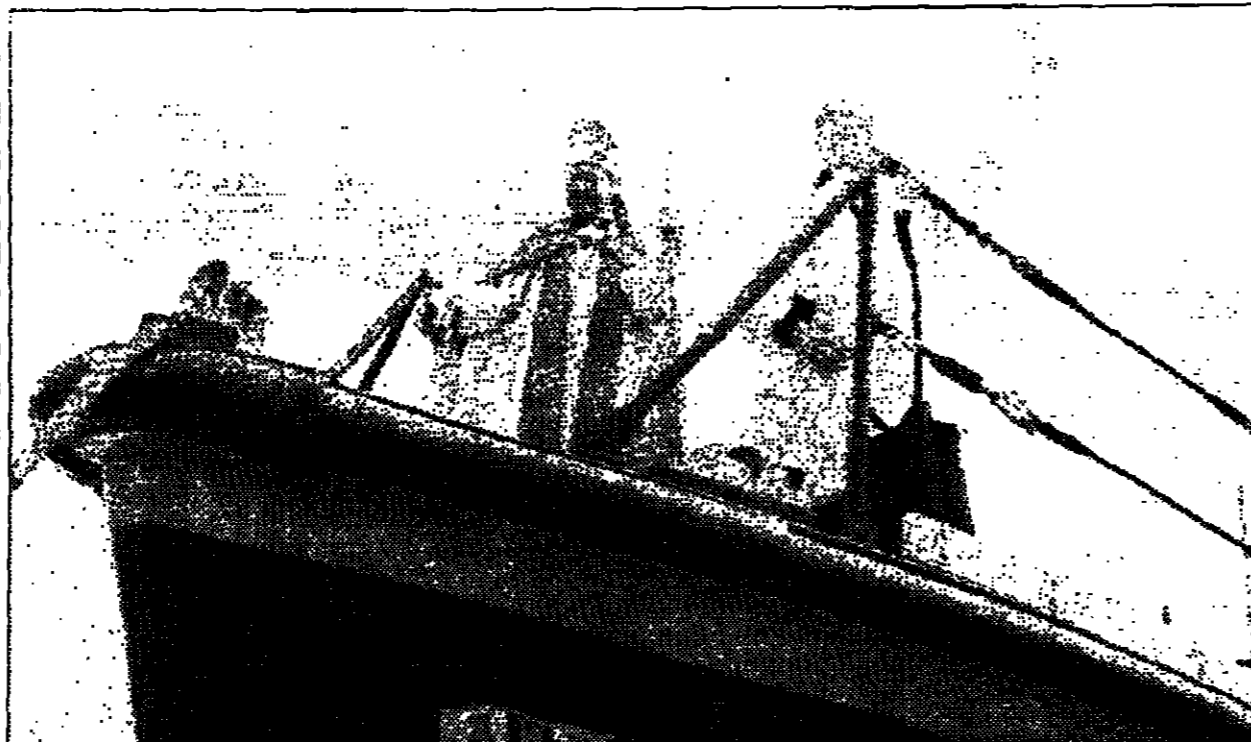
On Rogation Sunday a blessing of the sea evokes more of loss than of hope. Sailing from a town mired in the past, the fishermen of Hastings look back to better times



Matthew Engel

AS THE last verse of For Those In Peril On The Sea faded away, the engines of the Hastings lifeboat suddenly started. Steam poured from various orifices, the chains tying the boat to the trailer were removed, and the RNLI Sealink Endeavour dropped into the sea with a gentle plop and headed for the harbour bar.

as a Sussex pond; it was a perfect day for a little trip. There was, however, a dark clouded subtlety. This was a ceremony linking three of Britain's much-loved but threatened institutions: the Church, the fishing industry and the traditional seaside resort. Of the three it is the fishing industry that is in the most immediate trouble. One presumes the transmigration of souls goes on the way it always has done: the migration of the Dover sole has been severely mucked up by gravel extraction in the English Channel.

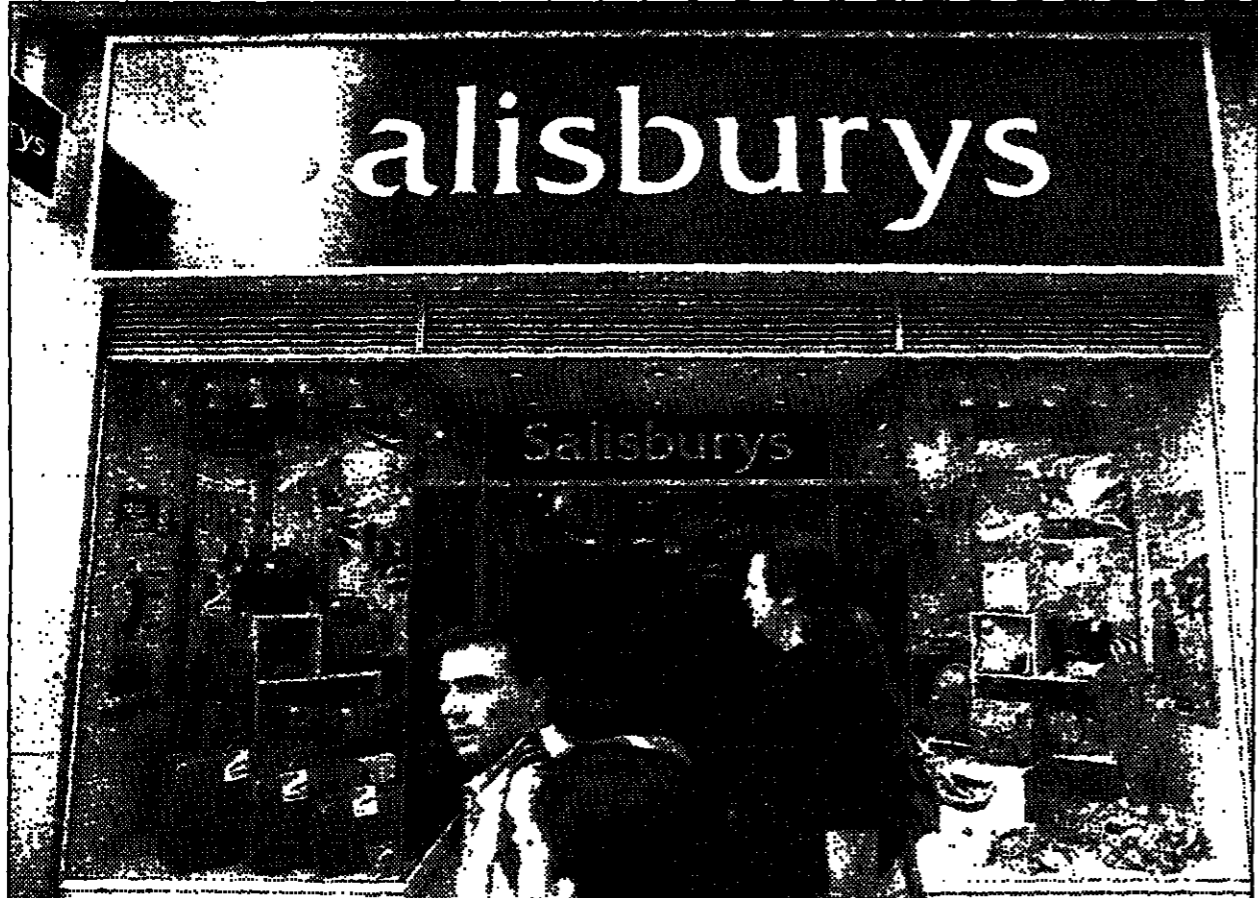


For those in peril on the sea... the Bishop of Lewes, the Rt Rev Ian Cundy, at the service

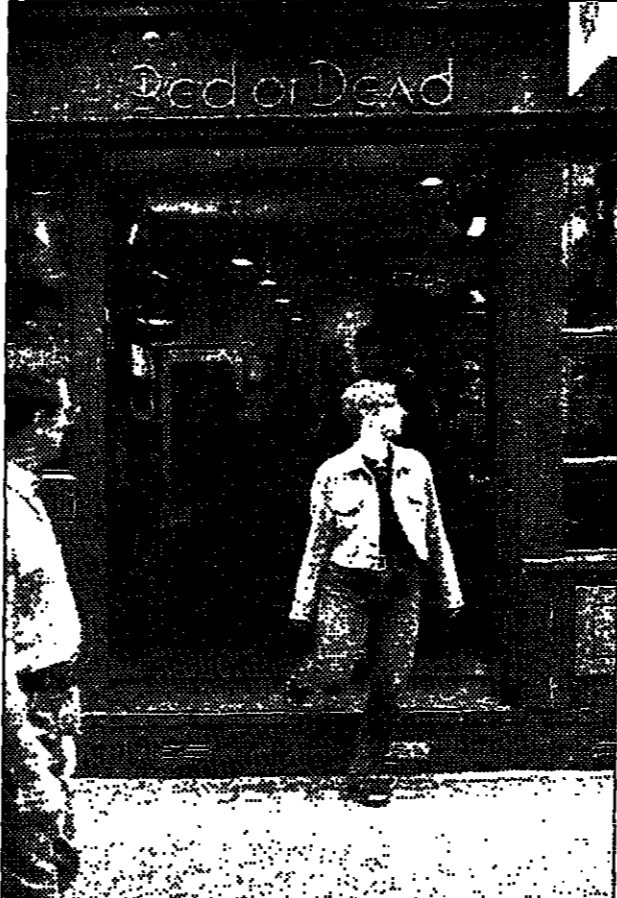
PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

number had just come back on the morning tide but the main catch right now is curdfish, readily eaten in southern Europe but mainly used here for bangles to sharpen their beaks. It is inclined to squirt black ink at its predators so the men come back a bit too filthy to contemplate a bishop.

The department of Social Security is the best customer. It is a town that seems mired in the past, not always in the right way. There was a plan to turn the harbour into a marina, but nothing happened. All that has happened is that the once-lovely town centre cricket field is being turned into a shopping precinct, which was a very 1960s sort of decision.



Well-known Facia names such as Salisbury's and Red or Dead will continue to trade after the appointment of receivers at the weekend



PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

US changes tack to insist on Bosnia poll

Owen Bennett Jones in Geneva and Julian Berger in Pale

BOSNIAN elections must go ahead in September whether or not the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, is removed from office, the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, told Balkan leaders in Geneva yesterday.

Facia collapse threatens 8,500 high street jobs

Paul Murphy

THE jobs of 8,500 staff at more than 1,000 high street shops remained under threat last night as court-appointed receivers moved in to run more than half of the collapsed Facia group, Britain's second largest privately-owned retailer.

Subsidiary	Goods	Outlets	When acquired	Status
Salisbury's handbags	Luggage	250	Aug 94	In receivership
Sock Shop	Hosiery etc	100	Oct 94	Unaffected
Torq	Jewellery	69	Jan 95	In receivership
Red Or Dead	Fashion	n/a	Jan 95	In receivership
Oakland	Men's fashion	40	Mar 95	In receivership
Confess	Ladieswear	130	April 95	In receivership
Mayfair Trunks	Luggage	n/a	April 95	Unclear
Freeman Hardy Willis	Shoes	-	-	-
Trueform	Shoes	-	-	-
Manfield	Shoes	250	Aug 95	Administration expected
Saxone	Shoes	-	-	-
Curless	Shoes	134	Feb 96	Administration expected
Bets, Germany	Shoes	110	Mar 96	Unclear

Wild arctic trail of misery to carefree promised land

Review

Adam Sweeting

The Cure

THE 1996 Cure features new recruit Jason Cooper on drums as well as the return of Roger O'Donnell on keyboards, alongside the more established Simon Gallup and Perry Bamonte. But The Cure is always Robert Smith, regardless of his hired hands, and despite the group's lengthy sabbatical Smith has returned miraculously unchanged.

played was Mint Car, a bright and bouncy item in which Smith makes a gallant effort to sound blissfully happy and carefree, with lines such as "I never knew it got this good". Round & Round & Round, by contrast, represented the dull, monotonous flipside.

"If you think that Karadzic will just do the pragmatic thing, you're crazy. He is a poet"

London agree

the United Nations, Mohamed Saifirbey, said yesterday: "We feel like we are in a car, behind the steering wheel, while the West is stepping on the gas."

Butch

Thankfully, there's one financial advisor who knows it's not just a cartoon dog.

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Q 1150



Toxic crusader Ritchie Palmer and friends. Curfew for him, say his parents, is 9pm. Other children on the estate stay out far later. PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE FORREST

Labour 'under-10s curfew' plan ignites row

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

'Effing Labour. It's the MPs who need an effing curfew after what they and their council's done to us on this estate. I'd like to see them come here'

JACK STRAW, the shadow home secretary, was at the centre of controversy inside and outside the Labour Party last night after suggesting the introduction of night-time curfew powers on children under 10.

He said he did not want to go as far as some American cities, where police have the power to impose an 8pm curfew on the under-17s to curb youth crime.

"There is very great concern about the number of younger children who are out on the streets late at night," he said. "This is not chasing every kid off the street. We are talking about the under-10s possibly being off the streets by 9pm."

"I see them when I'm driving back from the Commons and wonder where their parents are. Curfews seem to be a sensible way to deal with the issue. We are considering giving local authorities the new power in a specific area which they could only introduce after consultation with the police."

But within hours of his comments, Labour's chief whip, Donald Dewar, said on BBC 1's *On the Record*: "My first instinct is that this is a problem of very real proportions. I'm not sure that a curfew would be a workable solution. But what I do believe is that any responsible political party should be considering these problems."

Martin Wainwright

TOXIC Crusader Ritchie Palmer, four years old with a fuzzy crew-cut and lop-sided grin, plays out until 8pm on his Bradford estate — two hours later than another, familiar local sight coloured pale yellow and green.

The 609 Yorkshire Rider bus, whose livery exactly matches Ritchie's T-shirt, has run its last service at 6pm for the past year, after drivers were bombarded with stones by posers of children as young as six.

"Not that daylight stops them either," says the young mum helping out at one of Ravenscliffe's wire-meshed and weed-surrounded stores. "I came over from Undercliffe this morning with my little girl and there was a gang of them ready to throw things at our bus."

Jack Straw had no problem harvesting her vote yesterday, or winning the backing of an older mother, in for a litre of milk while her children deliberated over lolly flavours.

"We live higher up the estate," she said, "and there were kids out running riot last night at quarter to eleven, maybe later. I won't let mine play out in the streets, beyond our garden, because it's unbelievable what the others get up to. Things like stoning the bus — I mean, we would never have dared."

"True enough," said the shop assistant, who grew up on Ravenscliffe, and keeps a firm eye on her six-year-old daughter (bedtime 8pm at the latest). "It's a very good idea to let the police send them in, specially at this time of year when it's light on a night-time. It might just help their parents make a bit more effort."

Further into the estate,

and its neighbour Green-gates, however, Labour's initiative was greeted with sarcastic laughs and a measure of plain-spoken Yorkshire abuse. "Effing Labour," said Mark Thomas, one of a group of neighbours sunning themselves in Rowley Lea, a street with a striking mixture of well-cared-for council houses and boarded-up wrecks. "It's the MPs who need an effing curfew after what they and their council's done to us on this estate. I'd like to see them come here."

The limitations of a quick-fix curfew law were obvious in the street, and its bedraggled cul-de-sac Rudby Haven, where every house has been abandoned and sealed with metal or wood sheets. The site, about to be cleared, was optimistically earmarked by Rowley residents for a children's play area, precisely to keep the younger ones

like four-year-old Rio Knowles and 10-year-old Robert Bairdston in sight.

"That's what we need here, not a curfew," said Robert's father David, long-term unemployed but with a neat garden and a homemade stack of pens for his homing pigeons under a lilac hedge. "Yes, my two younger lads play out till 10 at this time of year, but we know they're in this street, and not getting up to any trouble. A play area would have done the world of good."

The disillusionment rotting the road, with its abandoned dolls and a torn Christmas decoration among the dandelion clocks, stems from the wrecking of these high hopes, according to neighbours. A trio of women heading off in maroon pinnies to clean a local hospital said that consultation with local people had proved a dispiriting sham.

Teenagers on the mud-rattled verge shared in the scepticism. "If they did make some of the lads on Norbury Road go in at nine," said one 15-year-old, "they'd probably just smash the houses up instead. Who's to say their parents are going to be in anyway?"

Curfew for the Toxic Crusader was meanwhile approaching, and he was summoned by his dad, unemployed labourer Barry Palmer, who lives with his partner Christine in a quiet cul-de-sac on Ravenscliffe. The couple have their doubts but think the curfew should be tried — carefully — as a way of helping the positive side of local life.

"You said this a long time ago, 'don't you Christine?'" he said. "But they'd have to do it sensibly, make sure the kids weren't unattended and maybe start off with a trial go."

Howard wants to introduce distinctive "mark of shame" uniforms for offenders undertaking community service punishments in public. The idea, put forward in Britain by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, would mean offenders wearing community service jackets instead of their own clothes when digging ditches, cleaning up graffiti or doing other community work.

It is expected that the idea will be included in Mr Howard's Crime Bill this autumn.

The Labour leader's office broadly supported Mr Straw, saying Tony Blair was deeply concerned about very young people roaming the streets at night. A spokesman stressed that the practicalities of the

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat spokesman on young people, said: "Curfews to stop youth crime is the latest simplistic, unenforceable and dangerous Labour idea."

"Curfews in time of local and national civil unrest are one thing. Curfews for law-abiding young people going about their normal activities is another."

Mr Straw said his idea was based on bylaws pioneered in 1988 by Coventry city council. He denied any link with an initiative, backed by President Clinton, developed in New Orleans to combat youth crime.

However, an idea from the Home Secretary does seem to be a British version of the Alabama chain gang, Michael

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idea had to be examined. Catherine Taylor, Labour's youth representative on the national executive, also refused to condemn the idea. But Clive Soley, the Labour MP, said policies to help families were needed rather than curfews.

Leader and Letters, page 8

London and Dublin close to agreement on arms formula

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

LONDON and Dublin appear poised to reach agreement tomorrow on a formula which would see the contentious issue of decommissioning paramilitary arms resolved days before all-party talks begin.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister, will meet in London for a crucial last round of decisions before next Monday's starting date for full negotiations on Northern Ireland's future. On the agenda: will be the role of George Mitchell, the former US senator and President Clinton's special Irish envoy.

London appears to be preparing to endorse Dublin's opinion that Mr Mitchell should chair talks on decommissioning paramilitary weapons as well as negotiations on new relations between Ireland's North and

South. If this is accepted, Dublin believes an IRA ceasefire could be within sight.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, is expected to see John Major today and speak to Mr Mitchell later this week to seek reassurances over the weapons issue.

Hopes of a deal were raised by Dublin's warm reaction to comments by Sir Patrick at the weekend that substantive negotiations on constitutional matters involving Sinn Fein could begin before the IRA starts to decommission.

Mr Spring welcomed the remarks by Sir Patrick, who said that decommissioning should take place in parallel with talks. "Of course it ought to happen straight away, but I don't think we can expect it to happen instantly. Equally, if they are sincere, it must happen soon," he said.

Mr Spring said that Sir Patrick was being "very realistic", but his proposal that Mr Mitchell be given "overriding powers" in the talks will alarm unionists, already

angered by what they see as yet another climbdown by Sir Patrick on illegal weaponry.

But the two governments remain firmly committed to their demand that the IRA must restore its ceasefire before Sinn Fein can enter the political process, which begins at Stormont next Monday. Mr Spring demonstrated this when he strongly criticised a suggestion yesterday by Albert Reynolds, the former Irish prime minister, that Sinn Fein should be allowed to enter the talks without an IRA ceasefire.

Mr Reynolds, whose role at the centre of the peace process in 1994 won the original IRA ceasefire decision, said he did not believe the IRA would be ready by next Monday but that Sinn Fein would be able to deliver a cessation soon after that.

"In that context I believe a commitment from Sinn Fein should be sufficient that they will seek an immediate reinstatement of the 1994 ceasefire and be allowed into the

talks on the basis that it will be restored in due course, which I believe will happen," Mr Reynolds said.

He said London and Dublin would hand Sinn Fein "one of the greatest international propaganda successes" ever by refusing its elected members entry to the talks next Monday, a situation that would be milked by Gerry Adams.

But yesterday Mr Spring firmly rejected Mr Reynolds's suggestion. "I find that very unhelpful... If he were to search today he would not be making comments like that."

Mary Robinson, the Irish president, begins today the first official visit to Britain by an Irish republican head of state. Yesterday she said that the Northern Ireland question was very central to her four-day visit.

Although she would not encroach on policy issues, Mrs Robinson said her visit could provide some reassurance to unionists concerned about their status in Northern Ireland.

Post strike fear as dispute drags on

Nick Varley

THE first national postal strike for eight years is looming after a two-to-one vote by sorting office and delivery workers in favour of industrial action.

Members of the Communication Workers Union are threatening to bring the system to a halt in an 11-month dispute with the Royal Mail over new working practices. Alan Johnson, the general secretary, announced the 67,311 to 31,528 poll result to cheers at the start of the union's annual conference in Blackpool yesterday.

Last ditch talks between the two sides will be held next week, and Mr Johnson stressed fast results were needed: "We are coming to the end of the road in terms of long negotiations."

"This ballot result emphasises what Royal Mail already knew — they got it wrong. Their approach in seeking to introduce unacceptable and unworkable ways of organising the workload, while presenting an illusion of enhanced basic pay which in reality reduced wages for many staff, was a disastrous mistake."

The dispute centres on Royal Mail proposals to introduce a system of "team working", which management claims would increase flexibility. Staff would be organised into small groups and expected to work as a unit, drawing up rotas and cover-

ing each others' rounds as necessary.

The management says a one-and-a-half hour cut in the working week, improvements in pay and holidays, and a gradual move to a five-day week would go hand-in-hand with ending 1970s-style demarcation lines and old-fashioned working practices.

The union fears almost a third of its members would be worse off under the deal, which would leave many workers on a six-day week.

Postal staff in Blackpool said they were prepared to strike, albeit reluctantly. Chris Bennett, aged 48, a delivery worker, said his £277 weekly wage would be cut by £11.04 through the loss of shift allowances.

"We are not a militant office here but morale is poor and we are glad we have achieved this. Yes vote to bring things to a head."

A Royal Mail spokesman said the package the union rejected would still be available when the two sides meet next week, with added money on offer which could mean no worker losing out financially.

"We are aiming for a deal whereby everyone benefits," a spokeswoman said. "We've always said there is room for further negotiation and more money."

"Strike action will not solve anything. The union cannot be serious if they think hitting customers' mail will benefit employees. Every 1 per cent of business lost means 1,500 jobs are at stake."

Netanyahu pledges to lead Jews and non-Jews in peace search

continued from page 1

even if it opposes an independent Palestinian state.

"Our nation must respect the agreements that we have achieved, even if we don't like the dreams that our partners may have," Mr Peres said.

lan Black, *Diplomatic Editor*, adds: Yasser Arafat,

stunned by the Likud victory, arrives in London today for talks with John Major and with hopes of encouraging British investment in what he optimistically calls "the promising land".

British policy, set out by the foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, last month, is that Is-

rael should not rule out the idea of a Palestinian state.

Mr Arafat, whose visit was set up months ago, will meet the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, the Labour leader, Tony Blair, and the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown. He will deliver a speech to the

Oxford Union tonight. Arranged before the Israeli elections, it is entitled: "The way ahead: the Palestinian perspective."

Tomorrow he is to make a speech at the Department of Trade and Industry to encourage trade and investment in Gaza and the West Bank.

New issue OUT NOW!

"Manchester is a Disneyland for drugs."

In this month's Q, Shaun Ryder, leader of Black Grape, "former" chemical connoisseur, comes clean (or thereabouts) about 15 years of forbidden fruit: "I had a perfectly healthy heroin habit before Happy Mondays even started."

FREE CD! Mmmmm, a CD that's a 73-minute saliva-serenading soufflé of sound, featuring Supergrass, Radiohead, Dubstar, Terrorvision, Crowded House, Sinead O'Connor and billions besides.

PLUS! In the midst of Aussie hysteria with Alanis Morissette, on the trail of the laminated "privilege card" with a panoply of Fan Club Memorabilia, and up against a deadline as Bryan Adams writes a song with Q. And we ask: Who the hell does Irvine Welsh think he is?

AND! In the world's only herbal reviews section, The Byrds, Metallica, The Blue Nile, Ash and Smashing Pumpkins.

Q Out now!

GREAT WHEN YOU'RE STRAIGHT.

Senior Tories weigh in to counsel caution, but Major sticks with blanket non-co-operation policy

Cabinet snubs beef pleas

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Major and his beef war cabinet, meeting in Downing Street yesterday, rejected calls to ease the European non-co-operation policy to match the likely lifting today of the European Union's ban on beef derivatives.

Douglas Hogg, who attended yesterday's meeting along with the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, hopes his fellow European agriculture ministers will lift the derivatives ban when he meets them today and presents a 270-page dossier setting out the British case.

- Action to deter employment of illegal immigrants.
- Agreement on EU external border controls.
- Resolution on improving anti-terrorism measures.
- EU participation in the International Law Enforcement Agency.
- Draft resolution for The Hague convention on the protection of young people.
- Resolution on parental leave.
- Draft decision on European Year against Racism.
- Resolution urging encouragement for the advancement of women.

- Spot checks on EU budget fraud affecting agriculture, regional development and social policy.
- Nomination of next President of the European Monetary Institute.
- Giving powers to European Investment Bank to take equity stakes in companies.
- Agreement on VAT rates on cut flowers.
- Budget for Europol (EU police co-ordination body) Drugs Unit.

He also said that the French and German public, "reading our media, reading some of the extraordinary things our politicians say, are giving up on Britain and think we are going through a spasm of unreality. They hope we will come to our senses."

Another former foreign secretary, Lord Howe, also intervened, warning that other areas of European policy were "being muffled and drowned out by the conflict on this single issue".

New CJD strain hits 16

Alan Watkins

AT LEAST 16 people in Britain are now suspected of being the victims of the new variant of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), which some scientists believe may be caused by exposure to meat or meat products contaminated by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy agent.

All of them are aged under 42 and several are in their early 20s. In addition, another six people have shown symptoms of the new variant in the first few months of this year, bringing the potential total to more than 20.

Some experts believe there is a strong possibility of a widespread infection by early next century, affecting all ages.

The five new cases are in addition to the 11 revealed two months ago, which provoked the beef crisis. Scientists admit the new figures, which have not been officially announced, will do nothing to allay concerns in Britain or the rest of Europe.

All the new cases have been diagnosed by the pattern of early symptoms of the illness, including anxiety, depression, unsteadiness of gait and unusual brain wave activity, detected during hospital tests.

Final confirmation of the new variant will only be possible by post-mortem examination when scientists will be anxious to establish whether the pattern of the disease in the brain shows the same cluster, virtually identical to that seen in BSE-affected cattle, that was present in the earlier cases.

John Pattison, head of the spongiform encephalopathy advisory committee (SEAC), who revealed the new version of the disease, says he is concerned about the latest developments but maintains he is unable to reach conclusions from statistics so far. Other committee members say if there is a rising incidence of new cases among the young over the next 18 months, it will be impossible to avoid the conclusion that a large proportion of the population is at risk from the disease, which is incurable. The possible link with BSE is still only theoretical.

The Department of Health maintains there is no evidence of an epidemic but offers no explanation for the falling age profile indicated by new notifications of the disease.



Rod Richards campaigning in the Vale of Glamorgan by-election. PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

On Welsh Labour on New Labour:
'[It is] nothing more than a wooden horse called Tony the Phoney Pony whose mission is to deceive the British people that the socialists have disappeared' — the Commons, April 1996

On Welsh Labour councillors:
'They're all the same. They're fat and they're slimy and they're fundamentally corrupt' — Welsh language Barn magazine, December 1994

On opposition to education vouchers:
'Members of the [Labour] front bench will, as usual, display their hypocrisy by taking full advantage of them in due course' — the Commons, January 1996

The MP who took pride in being the 'most hated man in Wales'

Patrick Wintour looks at the career of a man ever ready to take on Labour

ROD RICHARDS, according to his opposite number on the Labour front bench, revelled in the sobriquet of "the most hated man in Wales".

In his first major speech in the Commons, in March 1993, he provoked a walk-out by Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs and had to be restrained three times in 26 minutes by the Deputy Speaker, Janet Fookes, for his language about Welsh nationalists and the corruption of Labour councillors.

In June 1994 he was hauled over the coals and forced by Speaker Betty Boothroyd to withdraw the claim that Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, was a liar.

In December 1995, he was also rebuked by the Speaker for attacking Tony Blair's choice of a grant maintained school for his son, provoking Mr Boothroyd to say: "The people of this country are sick and tired of the personal attacks that go across this House."

One Labour MP said yesterday: "You could just about have a civil chat with him about rugby or Glamorgan cricket club, but get within 1,000 miles of politics and he becomes incredibly aggressive."

He used an interview in an obscure Welsh language magazine, *Barn* (Opinion), to say Welsh Labour councillors: "They are all the same. They're short, they're fat, and they're slimy, and they're fundamentally corrupt."

One Labour councillor responded: "That's not true. I am not short." Others did not see the funny side: the Clwyd county council Labour group threatened to sue.

Such language lost him friends in the Welsh Office when John Redwood, then Welsh secretary, was trying to run a PR offensive with Labour local government. Mr Redwood was forced to tell him to apologise.

Mr Richards won one of the few safe Conservative seats in Wales with a ma-

jority of 6,050 in 1992. Never scared to take on Labour, he was one of the Tory MPs of the 1992 intake that decided to penetrate the then exclusively Labour Strangers Bar at Westminster.

In recent months, his more frequent appearances there led some to speculate that he was undergoing a personal crisis. There had been rumours that his marriage of 19 years was on the rocks. The speculation grew when he was one of the few Tory ministers not to vote on divorce reform.

Mr Richards also has an unusual background for a Tory MP. He was thrown out of university at Aberystwyth after a year in which he devoted more time to sport than his books. He joined the Royal Marines between 1969-71 before returning to university in 1974, this time to Swansea where he achieved a first in economics.

There followed four years with the security services in Northern Ireland, a period of employment listed in Dod's Parliamentary Companion as Ministry of Defence (Defence Intelligence Staff).

After a period as a mini-cab driver in east London, he became a newsreader for the new SC4 Welsh language channel, a role he had to relinquish when he fought and lost the Vale of Glamorgan by-election.

He also ran a pub, subsequently leased to John Humphries, the man who leads the choir on Welsh Night at Labour Party conferences. The pub landed him in a court battle over the non-payment of a bill, a dispute that cost him heavy legal costs and a rebuke from the judge.

For a short time he was the special advisor to the Welsh Secretary, David Hunt, but in 1989 he was selected to stand for Clwyd North East, the former seat of Tory rebel Sir Anthony Meyer. He was also a member of the Welsh quango and landed a job on the Welsh Development Board.

His wife, Liz, is widely respected. For many years she worked as a speech therapist in Cardiff, bringing her three children and running the pub while Mr Richards nursed his constituency in North Wales.

Mr Richards entered government in July 1994.

Romanian charity 'still awaits cash from duchess'

Sue Quinn

A LEADING Romanian charity is still waiting to receive money promised from a highly publicised visit by the Duchess of York almost a year ago, according to a television programme to be screened tonight.

The World In Action programme says that on a three-day tour of Romanian orphanages and hospitals in May 1995, she was accompanied by a photographer from the glossy social magazine *Hello!*, which later published an article on the visit.

The magazine said that all funds raised from the sale of the article would go to a range of charities, including the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation. But the duchess's office told

the foundation that although the proceeds would amount to between £7,000 and £9,000 almost all of the cash had been spent covering the expenses of the duchess and her party. The foundation was told it could expect to receive no more than £300, and is still waiting for the money.

Prince Michael of Kent yesterday said he had done "nothing wrong" when he accepted payments from a leading US public relations firm which used his royal title to attract clients.

The prince is reported to have been hired by PR firm Burson-Marsteller in 1994 after he suggested that he could host lunches on its behalf. The prince's equerry, Sir Christopher Thompson, said: "Prince Michael gets nothing from the Civil List, but he has to live."

News in brief

Family suffers five deaths in fire

A MOTHER and four of her children were killed in the Irish Republic's worst fire involving a single family early yesterday. Bridie Maher, aged 43, and two of her sons, Mark, 25, Barry, 12, and three daughters — Joanne, nine, Fiona, six, and Martina, three — died when fire engulfed their home at Portlarnion, Co Laois. Three other sons were injured, one of them, Colm, aged 25, seriously. Vincent, 17, and Dominic, 14, were also in hospital last night.

Mrs Maher's husband Aio escaped uninjured and raised the alarm, but firefighters were beaten back by thick smoke and flames. A police spokesman said: "There's only the walls left, the full upstairs fell down on to the ground floor."

As forensic experts examined the remains of the terraced home last night, local police Superintendent Noel McCarthy said: "All the indications are that it was an accidentally caused human tragedy. Everyone is stunned about what has happened."

A man living close to the Mahers said: "They were a well-known and well-liked family. Everyone here is in a state of shock about this." — *David Sharrock*

More boys sent to prison

THE numbers of 15 and 16-year-olds in prison are creeping up despite government pledges to reverse the trend, according to figures released by the Penal Affairs Consortium yesterday. The consortium, which represents 31 organisations linked to jails, demanded that ministers order an immediate end to the "Dickensian" practice of sending teenage boys to adult prisons.

The analysis showed that 1,889 boys aged 15 and 16 were remanded to adult jails and remand centres last year — a rise of 72 per cent since 1992. Numbers had fallen from 4,812 in 1976 to 1,086 in 1992.

Its report said: "Juveniles remained in custody are held in wings of adult prisons, often with young adults aged 18 to 20. Their conditions are normally worse than those for sentenced offenders. Keeping juveniles before trial in over-stretched penal establishments, together with young adults more sophisticated in the ways of crime, is a recipe for intimidation, bullying and confirming young people in criminal habits."

Murder lawyer's DNA plea

CROWN officials are to be asked to investigate the possibility that a convicted rapist and sex offender who was jailed for murdering a schoolgirl may be responsible for two killings for which another man was imprisoned. A lawyer acting for Andrew Cameron, aged 30, who was jailed 11 years ago for the killings of two teenage girls, is to ask the Crown Office to subject samples from all the cases involved to DNA tests.

His call follows the trial last week at which Gavin McGuire, 37, jailed for 30 years by the High Court in Glasgow for the murder of 16-year-old Mhairi Julian, who was sexually assaulted and strangled as she walked home from a pantomime, Cameron's lawyer, Joe Beltrami, said there were strong similarities between the attacks for which his client was jailed and attacks linked to McGuire.

Ashdown attack on poverty

THE Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown will this week announce plans to spring the poverty trap by merging income support with family credit into a new low income benefit.

He also plans to take 750,000 low income earners out of tax altogether funding the move from a new 50 per cent tax rate levied on the 120,000 taxpayers earning more than £100,000 a year.

Mr Ashdown will claim his party's "hand up" approach to the poor can be contrasted with the "hand out" benefit programme of the Government and the hands off policy of Labour. He will also offer employers an initial subsidy of £150 a week to provide work and training to the long term unemployed. — *Patrick Wintour*

Turtle saved from the pot

A HUGE turtle has been freed by RSPCA officers after it got stuck in crab pots off the Cornish coast. The huge leatherback — the world's largest species of turtle — was spotted on by staff and customers at the Paris Hotel in Coverack on the Lizard Peninsula.

A vet and coastguard were sent to rescue the turtle, which can only survive trapped under water for around an hour before drowning. The leatherback was discovered languishing in crab pots and nets some 50 metres from the shore. Mark Williams, manager of the Paris Hotel, said a string of tourists rushed into the restaurant with reports of a giant stranded creature.

Seven on arms charges

SEVEN men will appear before magistrates today charged in connection with the seizure yesterday of a haul of guns and ammunition. They were arrested after a four-month operation involving Cleveland police and the North East Regional Crime Squad.

Police said a "substantial amount" of firearms was recovered, including handguns, automatic weapons, sub-machine guns and component parts of weapons and ammunition. The seven, from Cleveland, North Yorkshire, Bridlington and Gloucestershire, were charged with offences relating to the possession and supply of prohibited weapons.

Lottery winners

SATURDAY'S £11.6 million National Lottery jackpot was won by two ticket-holders who each scooped £5,828,608. This week's lucky numbers were 35, 45, 24, 37, 36 and 39, with the bonus 20. Sixteen winners matched five numbers plus the bonus ball winning £234,177 each.

The Guardian in association with Philosophy Football

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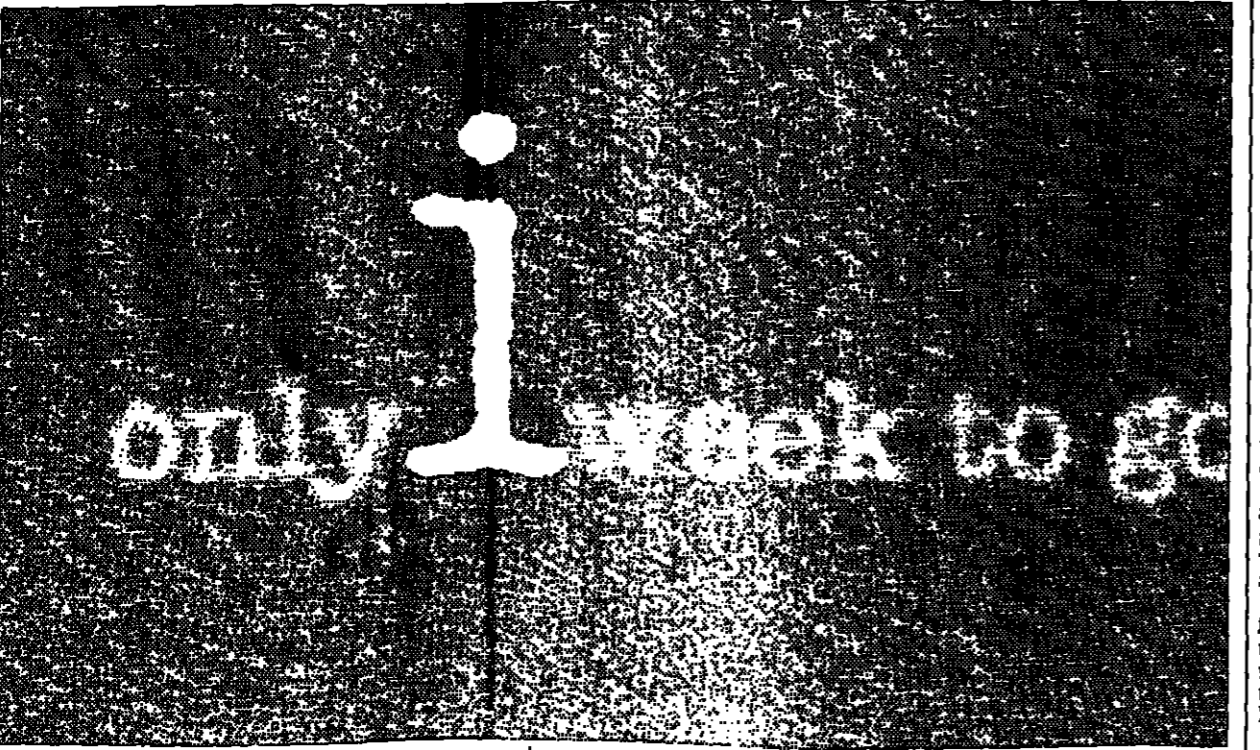
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Landmarks in aviation, great and small... Heathrow scores half a century, an Irish village notches up 10 years



A British Airways Concorde leads the Red Arrows display squadron in a flypast to mark Heathrow's 50th anniversary and (below) a modest crowd gathers for the ceremony to mark Knock's 10 years

It's a success story with a very Irish flavour — a 400-strong community with an international airport. David Sharrock reports on Knock's first decade

IT WAS deemed a miracle of the 1980s; holy and modern Ireland conspiring together in a mad scheme to build an international airport for the benefit of a County Mayo village of 400 souls and a Marian shrine.

bureau and building a vast "hallroom of romance". From the moment the Pope set foot in Knock, Father Horan began his campaign for an international airport, imagining a pilgrimage site to rival Lourdes.

not forgotten him. His name graces its official title and a bust of him has been unveiled this weekend. "Sixteen years ago I saw people cutting turf on what is now Knock airport," said Cathal Duffy, a garage man from Castlebar.



PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY HARRIS AND ALAN REVELL

Top universities threaten £3,000 fees

Vice-chancellors step up war of nerves by warning students

TOP universities are threatening to impose fees of £3,000 a year unless the Government pumps more money back into higher education.

on new students to make up for cuts in the budget, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, set up an inquiry headed by Sir Ron Dearing into higher education funding.

started meeting at the Russell Hotel in Bloomsbury, central London, near the CVC head-quarters to plan tactics — before they are losing ground in the international research league and must take urgent steps to boost income.

Disappearing act by Blair's mentor

Ruaridh Nicoll at the church whose new priest has Labour worried

JUSTIN, Crispin and Adrian were a touch nervous about the reporters in their midst. It was Sunday and 11 o'clock, time to praise the Lord and the reporters were looking for Peter Thomson, a tall, silver-haired Australian who has just been appointed vicar to this parish, St Luke's in Holloway, north London.

Woodhead tells teachers to study eastern approach

TEACHERS must scrap progressive child-centred teaching methods in primary schools which have left young people lagging behind students in other countries in mathematics and literacy, Chris Woodhead, HM Chief Inspector, will announce today.

The way the Plowden Report of 1967, with its advocacy of child-centred methods, had been interpreted in some schools should be buried, says Mr Woodhead.

schools into dull, arid places. Mr Richards disputes the validity of international comparisons: "It is invalid to assume you can take any one particular factor from another culture and transplant it more or less intact."



Chris Woodhead: stepping up pressure on schools

Court claims cut police strength

HUNDREDS of police could be taken off the beat because of the cost of industrial tribunal and court claims brought by serving officers and the public, according to senior police sources.

140 claims for damages. They contested 30 cases, winning 28 of them. Juries have been asked by barristers in civil actions to award punitive damages to send a message to the police.

Doctors discriminate against smokers waiting for heart ops

SOME smokers who were placed on lengthy waiting lists for surgery may have become ex-smokers whilst waiting because of their frightening experiences of heart disease. He said doctors may have used the withholding of surgery as a bargaining tool to induce smokers to stop.

Advertisement for G2 page 9: You feel a little disappointed when you find several parts of this enviable nation's media portraying us as "the Hun" in steel helmets and riding on Panzers. Ulrich Schilling on jingoism and the Germans

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World news in brief

Fighting shatters Chechen peace deal

THE CHECHEN peace deal patched together to support President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign is in serious trouble after a weekend of fighting, deaths and accusations of bad faith from both sides.

Four Russian soldiers were killed and five injured in the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday when their armoured troop carrier was blown up. Russian military sources said an explosive device had been detonated by remote control. The deaths came more than 24 hours after a ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect and five days after Mr Yeltsin, on a lightning visit to the republic, told federal troops the war was over and they had won.

Tension between Russian forces and separatists was already high after a clash in the town of Shali on Friday, which ended with 10 Chechens being taken prisoner, and the capture by the Chechens of 26 Russians in the Nozhai-Yurt district. Talks between the two sides due to be held in the Caspian port of Makhachkala on Saturday were cancelled and the Russian authorities suggested negotiations for Wednesday and Thursday in Nazran, west of Chechnya.

Two key figures who command trust on both sides were trying to resolve the crisis yesterday — Tim Guldinmann, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's delegation in Grozny, and Aslan Maskhadov, the overall Chechen military commander. But the gap between the two sides seems wider than ever. — James Meek, Moscow, Moscow Diary, page 11

Protests at tough gun laws

JOHN HOWARD, the Australian prime minister, vowed yesterday to introduce tough gun laws after a second shooting spree in a month, despite big anti-gun control rallies and threats of a political campaign by gun owners. "I understand how strongly some people feel about this issue and I've always acknowledged there are a lot of law-abiding people who are going to be affected by these new laws," he said.

About 50,000 gun owners staged one of the country's biggest protests since the Vietnam war on Saturday, hours after a man, armed with a pump-action shotgun, wounded five people near the city of Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. A rally of about 7,500 gun owners in Adelaide, South Australia, yesterday warned of a ballot box backlash against the tough new laws. Gun owners carried signs with slogans such as "Punish the criminals! Not the innocent". — Reuter, Sydney.

Clinton bounces back

PRESIDENT Clinton appears to have suffered little political damage from last week's guilty verdicts in the Whitewater affair, according to a new poll published yesterday.

Although 58 per cent of Americans believe the Clintons are guilty of a cover-up on Whitewater, a Newsweek survey gave the president a 17-point lead against his Republican rival, Senator Bob Dole.

The poll, taken after three of Mr Clinton's associates were convicted on multiple fraud charges in Arkansas, found the president beating Mr Dole by 49 per cent to 33 per cent.

Meanwhile, administration officials conceded they had lost key documents relating to the inquiry into the controversial 1993 firing of the White House travel staff. — Jonathan Freedland, Washington.

UN embezzlement scandal

A SENIOR American official of a Geneva-based United Nations agency is being investigated on suspicion of having embezzled between \$200,000 (£133,300) and \$900,000 in UN funds, the United Nations announced on Friday.

Under UN rules, the official was not identified because formal charges have not yet been made. However, Sylvia Fox, the spokeswoman for Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the secretary-general, said he was a US citizen who has been in Geneva for 20 years and most recently has been a high-ranking official of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

The case comes at a potentially awkward time for the UN which has been struggling to extricate itself from a financial crisis caused chiefly by the failure of the United States to pay between \$1.2 billion and \$1.5 billion in back dues. — John Goshko, Washington Post.

Indian PM to woo investors

H. D. DEVE GOWDA (right), wants to take the oath as India's 12th prime minister at the presidential palace in New Delhi on Saturday.



Mr Gowda, head of the ruling 13-party United Front, has shown that he will zealously pursue free-market policies by naming Palaniappan Chidambaram, educated in Harvard, as his finance minister, party officials said yesterday.

"Chidambaram sends the right signals to external investors," said Jaipal Reddy, spokesman of the United Front.

The Communist Party of India, one of the country's two main communist groups, joined the coalition, which took power on Saturday. Its presence in government was not expected to dampen Mr Gowda's enthusiasm for market-friendly policies. "We will sort differences out," he said. — Reuter, New Delhi.

Ukraine goes nuclear-free

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin yesterday praised the pullout from neighbouring Ukraine of the last nuclear weapons inherited from the former Soviet Union.

Ukraine announced on Saturday that it had shipped its last warheads to Russia and was now nuclear-free. It gave up the weapons in exchange for promises of nuclear fuel from Russia and aid from the United States.

Mr Yeltsin praised the efforts of all three sides and said the operation had not been easy. "Despite the fact that the sides had to tackle sometimes difficult political, economic and technical problems, common sense and commitment to international obligations always took the upper hand," he said. — AP, Moscow.

Tribunal for errant children

A NEW tribunal aimed at helping parents collect maintenance from children has won immediate business, confounding sceptics who thought Asian parents would not want to take such legal steps, the Singapore Sunday Times said yesterday.

The tribunal received 11 claims and several telephone queries on Saturday, its first day of business, the paper said. Set up under legislation passed last year, the tribunal provides a legal mechanism for neglected parents. — Reuter, Singapore.

Every year three or four children are boiled alive, as they fall down the shafts into the hot water. No-one takes much notice of their deaths. David Hearst on Moscow's hot water system

Guardian writers report on the changing face of post-communist eastern Europe



Defeat in victory... The Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, meets the press as results showed his coalition falling short of a parliamentary majority. PHOTOGRAPH MICHAL DOLEZAL

Klaus clings on despite trimmed sails

Prague/The Czech election results may bring parliamentary gridlock, writes Ian Traynor

IN A CLIFFHANGER election at the weekend, Czechs reaffirmed the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, as their leader but trimmed his sails by denying him a parliamentary majority.

calls for the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Gypsies, and warnings that the country was being swallowed up by Germany.

Their extremist leader, Miroslav Sladek, warned yesterday that parliament was in for a rocky ride. Mainstream politicians and commentators were alarmed that the extreme right and left had mustered more than 20 per cent of seats between them and could cause trouble, given the lack of a stable ruling majority.

The uncertain outcome means President Havel, who is relatively powerless and does not enjoy a warm relationship with the prime minister, could be thrust back into the limelight, as an anchor of stability amid parliamentary paralysis.

Few hopes for run-off polls

Tirana/A heavy police presence clouds elections tainted by foul play. Helena Smith reports

THE Albanian president, Sali Berisha, was conspicuous by his absence yesterday as voters took part in run-off polls that marked the end of a general election marred by controversy.

Dictator's scar disfigures capital

Bucharest/Planners hoping to transform the city must overcome public apathy and foreign scepticism. Sarah Turnbull reports

IN A barren park in the shadow of Nicolae Ceausescu's massive palace, Neil Coltofeanu is struggling to remember where his home stood before the bulldozers came.

Pricey ticket to join Nato

David Fairhall and Ian Black

NATO'S entrance fee for the states of eastern Europe could mean a 60 per cent increase in their military expenditure, a United States congressional study has warned.

Odd deals in high places

John Hooper in Rome

SOME 500 carabinieri fanned out across Italy at the weekend to execute a flood of arrest warrants arising from perhaps the oddest of many strange cases before the courts.

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Briton irons out problems with pop music

THE NEW CHINA

OXFORD philosophers have held seminars on logical positivism. Peter Ustinov lent his voice for a recorded guide to the Forbidden City. Shakespearean actors coached a performance of Hamlet. But it is a British talent nurtured in a toilet paper factory in Madison, Kent, that commands the attention of tens of millions of ordinary Chinese.

"They regard foreigners as slightly stupid," said Brian Anderson, a 43-year-old disc jockey and purveyor of strictly non-political pop to

Andrew Higgins, in the latest report in his series, tunes in to a radio presenter who is soothing the masses with his easy-going style and non-political chat

cities across China. "I come across as stupid and cuddly. You are less threatening if you seem like an idiot."

When China embraced Western culture before the 1949 revolution, Bertrac Russell, W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Bernard Shaw and many others voyaged east to join in the intellectual ferment of a society struggling to escape two millennia of Confucian philosophy.

Today, in a country again seeking to remake itself, British culture is once more making a mark.

Translations and imitations

of Barbara Cartland romances are sold on street stalls, state television shows Premier League football each week, and radio stations in eight Chinese cities broadcast Mr Anderson and his Chinese wife, Maggie Zhang, offering chirpy DJ chatter and pop melodies "to do your ironing to."

"I'm doing this job the same way I would do it in Birmingham," said Mr Anderson, who divides his time between Shanghai and a cottage near Inverness.

"Everybody always forgets about ordinary people leading ordinary lives. There is nothing

political, just pop music. If your mum can do the ironing to it, we'll play it."

Big favourites are the Carpenters, Wham, the Pet Shop Boys and, of course, Take That. Heavy metal is definitely out. Can't-pop, a sickly sweet mush dominated by Hong Kong crooners, is left to the ubiquitous karaoke bar.

A former DJ on the pirate station Radio Caroline and presenter at Radio Tees and then Moray Firth Radio, he first mastered the art of soothing the masses at a Kimberly Clark toilet paper plant near his parents' house in Kent.

"My job was to play music to keep the workers happy. Their work was so boring they needed something to get them from going crazy."

He now performs much the same role in China, where, despite new prosperity and modest new freedoms, most people live in cramped flats and hold jobs made more in-

secure but rarely more exciting by the advent of the free market.

"They watch TV with their granny but they have music to escape. Put on the headphones and they can float away. They don't smoke dope, they listen to the Carpenters," he said.

The media, almost entirely state run with the exception of a few avowedly uncritical ventures, such as a Chinese edition of Elle magazine, remains firmly under the thumb of the Communist Party propaganda department, the most ideologically hide-bound and paranoid branch of the Chinese bureaucracy.

Foreigners are banned from live on-air studios. After the Tiananmen massacre seven years ago tomorrow, the authorities spent months investigating how a Chinese presenter on the English-language service of Beijing Radio had been allowed to announce that "a most tragic

event has happened in the Chinese capital". The culprit was the son of former foreign minister, Wu Xueqian.

Money has begun to erode some of the restraints, though rarely the suspicion that spawned them. Mr Anderson launched his broadcasting career in China soon after the 1989 killings with "Hello from Britain", a bi-lingual programme sponsored by the courier service DHL. Next came Nescafé Music Time and then Sony Countdown.

"We don't talk about politics. Perhaps I've been in Shanghai too long. All anybody talks about here is making money. But I wouldn't talk about politics on the Top 20 on Capital Radio either."

In return for advertising plugs, the sponsors pay Mr Anderson to make the programmes and Chinese state radio stations to play them. The shows, recorded mostly in Scotland and then sent to Chinese stations on tape,

reach a potential audience of 250 million people.

Mr Anderson has tried to enliven the staid formality of broadcasting. Chinese announcers usually speak a meticulously modulated variation of Mandarin otherwise heard only on language study tapes.

Instead of the customary on-air greeting of "Listener friends, hello and welcome to our programme of beautiful music", Mr Anderson prefaces: "Hi, how are you?" His wife provides a jaunty translation. Another innovation is the record request — but only by post.

Shanghai's obsession with money sometimes gets Mr Anderson down. "If you are not interested in money alone, they don't understand what you are doing," he said. "I'm just an ageing hippie. I should be living in California listening to J. J. Cale and the Steve Miller Band."



Radio days: Brian Anderson in Shanghai has a potential audience of 250 million

Clashing interests close in on new PM

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and Jessica Berry in Kiryat Arba

THE Palestinians want Israel to redeploy its troops in Hebron immediately. The Jewish settlers of the occupied West Bank want to put their bulldozers and builders to work. The religious parties want to close down McDonald's in Jerusalem, because it sells cheeseburgers.

The conflicting demands of office are closing in on Benjamin Netanyahu, more than two weeks before he is expected to take over as Israel's ninth prime minister.

He must soon decide whether to pull Israeli troops out of the flashpoint West Bank town of Hebron.

Yesterday the outgoing government headed by Shimon Peres, which had firmly committed Israel to complete the military redeployment by mid-June, simply passed the buck to Mr Netanyahu. The cabinet rejected Palestinian demands to order the pullout immediately, but pointedly described the withdrawal agreement as an "international commitment".

The Hebron redeployment is central to the deep divisions between the old and new governments. Mr Peres was the strategist of three years of land-for-peace deals with the Palestinians. Mr Netanyahu, though he reluctantly accepts the limited autonomy powers given to the Palestinians, opposes any

more concessions. Hebron policy involves more than a clash of ideology. It is a city sacred to religious Jews, which just happens to be inhabited by more than 100,000 Arabs.

Meanwhile, bulldozers have begun to clear land confiscated from Arabs south of Jerusalem for a Jewish housing scheme. In Jerusalem right-wing groups are pressing demands for more Jewish housing in the Arab-dominated eastern half of the city.

They are clearly looking to

Feelings are running high in the West Bank. But before Mr Netanyahu can tackle the issues of occupation, he must first consolidate his victory by building a parliamentary coalition.

Yesterday, Likud leaders began negotiations with potential allies in the Knesset (parliament), which is expected to meet on June 17. That is when Mr Netanyahu hopes to present his new government for approval.

The new prime minister's own Likud faction only has 21 members in the 120-seat Knesset — but they include some of his closest aides (and rivals), who are expecting high government office. Two other rightwing factions which fought on the same list as Likud have five members each — and they too expect government posts.

The three religious parties, which have between them 34 Knesset members, are essential to Mr Netanyahu's hopes of a solid majority in the Knesset. But they will demand at least four ministries.

And even with the religious parties on board, Mr Netanyahu will also have to entice into his government at least two smaller centrist parties. His most acute problem is that by law, he is allowed a maximum of 18 cabinet members.

Meanwhile he will have to listen very carefully to religious demands for the closure of the enormously popular, decidedly non-kosher, McDonald's in the heart of Jerusalem.

'We are very happy. People were drinking wine, dancing'

the new prime minister for support. Yehayahu Yechiel, deputy mayor of the West Bank cluster of settlements known as Gush Etzion, summed up the ecstatic mood: "With Netanyahu, the sky's the limit."

In Kiryat Arba, the most hardline settlement of all, just outside Hebron, settlers spoke of moving new families into 300 flats which had been kept unoccupied at the outgoing government's insistence.

"We are very happy about the election... People were drinking wine, dancing. We feel good," said Tsurie Popovitch, a spokesman for the settlement.



Supporters applaud a speech by Aung San San Kyi, the Burmese democracy leader, outside her home in the capital Rangoon yesterday, in which she said they should refuse to attend government-staged rallies that denounce the democracy movement. "A mass rally should be one attended by people who want to be there, not those who are forced to go," she said

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Bahrain's emir offers olive branch to foes

Kathy Evans

IN AN EFFORT to end prolonged political instability, Sheikh Issa bin Salman al-Khalifa is expected within days to offer the people of Bahrain an expanded consultative assembly which is partially elected.

The emir's move is seen as the first olive branch to the opposition movement since its two-year-long uprising began to press for the return of an elected parliament and the 1975 constitution. The government previously dismissed the movement as "foreign-inspired" and backed by Iran.

On Saturday, the emir announced that the national council would be enlarged and that it was "propitious

and convenient" that it be given new powers.

According to reports circulating among London-based opposition groups, the council is to be increased from 30 to 40 members, of which half may be elected — probably indirectly, through professional and cultural associations — and the rest appointed by the emir.

The council was set up after the Gulf war and has largely been seen as a rubber stamp. Concern has grown in the past few months that instability was spreading to other states in the region. Even Bahrain's closest Western allies have privately urged dialogue with the opposition.

But Saudi Arabia, which pays most of Bahrain's budget deficit, is anxious that any formula for consultation

should not impinge on the absolute authority of the Gulf rulers. It wants assemblies to remain powerless and unelected, like its own.

A spokesman for the Bahrain Freedom Movement said: "Anything outside the constitution is refused. Such a council... would still not have the powers enshrined for parliament in our constitution." He ruled out dialogue until political prisoners had been released and exiles allowed to return.

The six Arab states of the Gulf Co-operation Council yesterday issued their strongest statement in years to Iran, warning it not to engage in "acts of sabotage" in Bahrain or other member states.

Iran has denied any role in the Bahraini unrest that has killed at least 26 people.

Expectant Japan wants royal baby

Mary Jordan in Tokyo

AS THE crown prince and princess approach their third wedding anniversary, Japan is whispering.

Since June 9, 1993, the day when Masako Owada, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, began life inside the cloistered walls of the Imperial Palace, she has had one crucial job: producing a male heir.

Princess Masako is only 32, but people are wondering why there is still no sign of a baby. At risk is the longest continuous family dynasty on earth. The emperor is said to be the 126th direct descendant of a monarchy that stretches back 2,600 years to Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess.

What was once unthinkable in the male-dominated country is now voiced publicly: Will Japan be forced to allow a woman to ascend to the throne?

In the past two and a half millennia, there have been eight female emperors. The law now forbids a woman to be the symbolic head of Japan. Attention has begun to focus on four-year-old Mako, the crown prince's niece, as a possible future emperor, which would require a change in the law.

Time, of course, has not run out. An emperor reigns for life, and the hoped-for heir would be second in line to the throne. Emperor Akihito is 62. His son — Masako's husband — is Crown Prince Naruhito, aged 36.

Still, gossip about a childless crown prince and princess grows louder almost daily, and Princess Masako

grows increasingly invisible. She makes brief public appearances, but almost always with her husband, and she rarely says a word.

"It's very odd; you never hear her voice," an imperial watcher, Toshiaki Kawahara, said. "Many people are talking about it, wondering if we are going backwards... if the family is more locked up."

If so, the latter is the Imperial Household Agency, which runs the affairs of the royal family. Asked about the baby question, Tsuruyoshi Soga, the palace's chief chamberlain, said: "I really wish the Japanese media would be more sensitive on this point."

The palace is where Princess Masako spends her days. Staff can't recall any overnight guests, even family or friends. She spends hours learning ancient court rituals and the art of waka, Japanese poetry. When she leaves home, she always travels in a chauffeur-driven black sedan. Cooks prepare a weekly menu. She shops through catalogues and from designers who come to her. The Japanese imperial family has no money of its own.

"In principle they are penniless," Toshiya Matsuzaki, a reporter for Ladies' Own magazine, said. "They have no freedom, they can't do anything without government approval."

At the end of February, Crown Prince Naruhito addressed the baby question at a news conference.

"I hear you all would like to know about the attitude of the stork. It seems the stork needs a quiet environment." — Washington Post.

Jailed hack wins friends

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE front page of the northern California weekly, The Anderson Valley Advertiser, carries a question from the journalist Joseph Pulitzer: "A newspaper should have no friends." It is a sentiment that the rural paper's editor, Bruce Anderson, has been pondering — from a jail cell.

Mr Anderson (his surname is a coincidence) is behind bars for contempt of court after refusing to surrender to prosecutors the original of a published letter to his newspaper. It came from Bear Lincoln, a native American

accused of killing a policeman in a reservation shoot-out a year ago, in which an Indian also died. Mr Lincoln is awaiting trial for murder.

Mr Anderson, aged 56, says correspondents need the assurance that "I will not run to the government with their letters." Two appeals courts rejected his argument, and he was jailed 10 days ago.

Mr Anderson, a leftwing populist and libertarian, says the dispute is more personal than political. He has vilified the county prosecutor's office, headed by a rightwing Republican, and the judge who imprisoned him.

Mr Lincoln's letter last January was a reply to the sheriff's public insistence that the

accused had killed the officer. Mr Lincoln wrote that police had prepared an ambush and fired in a "shoot-to-kill war on the Indian population." He signed himself "Pissed off, but still a peaceful organic vegetable gardener."

Shocked by incarceration, Mr Anderson surrendered the letter last week. But the judge refused to believe it was genuine. His lawyer will return to court this week with Advertiser staff who open the post.

Meanwhile, the editor has discovered he does have friends. One, a retired professor of criminal justice from Berkeley, wrote that the judge "demanded that Anderson back down and lick his boots. He picked the wrong man."

سكزا من الاجل

A curfew on commonsense
Jack Straw's rightward lurch

WHEN Parliament re-assembles this week, one of the first sounds we wish to hear is a clear repudiation of Jack Straw's confused argument for curfews on children in the streets.

Mr Straw's idea of a 9pm curfew is a con-trick. It is cheap tough talk about a largely non-existent problem which will be made significantly worse by the cure he proposes.

Anyone who stops to think about the effect of a curfew upon law-abiding and delinquent young people alike will see that it could lead to increases in family violence and to more homeless runaways.

Behind the ridiculous posturing of his statement that Labour has "zero tolerance" for anti-social behaviour, Mr Straw is increasingly leading his party into a Dutch auction with Michael Howard.

Mr Blair's pollsters and his instincts are telling him that Labour cannot afford to be seen as soft on crime, and doubtless this is the mainspring of the increasing rush to the right on law and order.

Sharing the cup

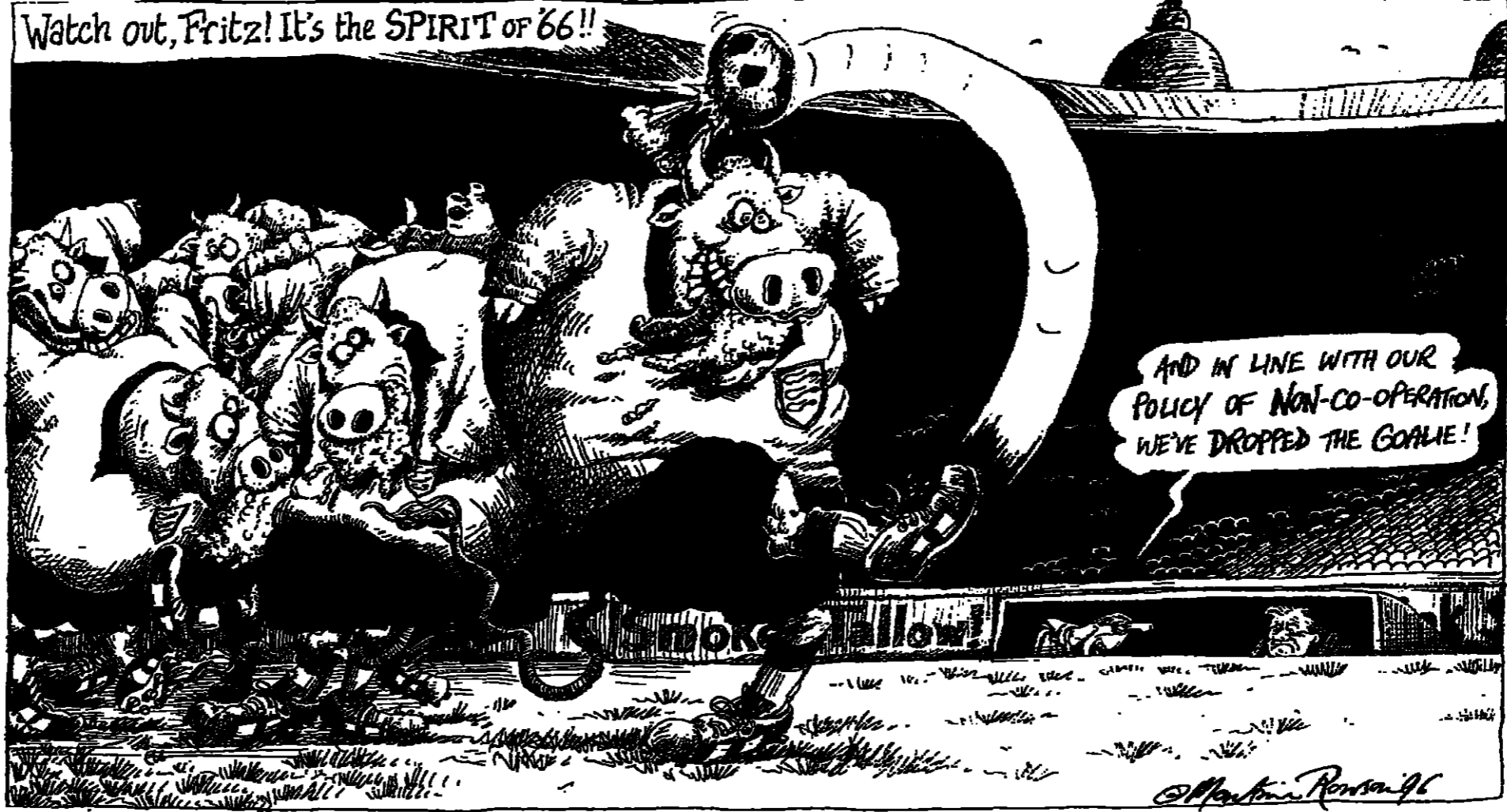
Can two really play the same game?

CO-HOSTING the World Cup for the year 2002 between Japan and South Korea is either a brilliant idea or a disaster in the making.

Korea has the stronger case on football grounds having reached the final tournament four times — three times straight since the 1966 games.

The resultant deal is more favourable to Korea — whose chances were regarded as increasingly poor — than to Japan.

Will football mend these historical wounds? First, a few problems have to be solved, such as whether both countries automatically qualify and where the final match will be held.



Letters to the Editor

Straw poll vs Straw policy

READ that Jack Straw wants curfews on young British people. Who is he to dictate when my children should be allowed out onto streets which I help pay taxes for?

I want my children to be able to walk our streets in safety, not be locked away at home watching television.

I grant you that it was not a huge survey but I feel sure that it is more than Jack Straw has done before putting forward his ideas borrowed from good ole boy Bill Clinton.

AS someone who has applied to join the police force, I take exception to A Fernandez's views on how best to stem the rise in crime.

A FERNANDEZ repeatedly asks "How would you feel?" in his letter defending tougher sentences.

ODE to Joy is far too good to be left in a society magazine.

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

YOU have probably forgotten about A Very Social Democrat. For, when a Monday morning column is dedicated to a Sunday night event, it is eight days out of date.

Will football mend these historical wounds? First, a few problems have to be solved, such as whether both countries automatically qualify and where the final match will be held.

Let's re-style the model

AT LAST an advertiser is prepared to put his economic muscle behind a protest against excessively thin models.

The second step is for concerned advertisers to specify that no models should be used in their ads who have a BMI of less than 20.

Roll on

THE incoming Master of the Rolls should view as a priority the early demise of the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau.

WHILST walking along the high street, I admit, a rather dislocated frame of mind, I inadvertently bumped into a solicitor.

ODE to Joy is far too good to be left in a society magazine.

NOT ONLY Vogue should stand accused (the whole clothing industry conspires to convince us that an anorexic 13-year-old is the norm).

S Alexandra Shuiman, editor of Vogue magazine, suggesting that female sufferers of eating disorders are blind?



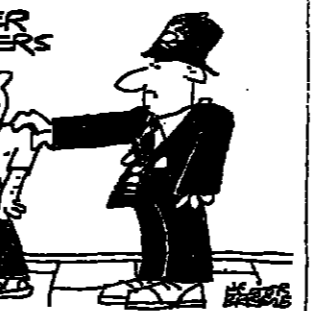
A second front in Europe's war

IT APPEARS from your report of football hooligans organising pre-arranged fights (Raids herald crackdown on Euro 96 hooligans, May 25).

A more appropriate method of dealing with this problem would be for the authorities to designate an area of wasteland for the combatants to engage each other upon.

plausible that such a feeling is the product of believing that one's sole function as a woman is to fulfil societal expectations, regardless and indeed at the expense of personal happiness, achievement and health.

SUCH indignation from your columnist, Susie Orbach, over the poor, living X-ray pictured in Vogue (Commentary, May 31).



A second front in Europe's war

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The professor applies the right of reply to the ethics of science

IN REPLY to the letters that question my claim that scientific knowledge is value-free (Juggling with ethics in the lab, June 1).

Science provides us with the best way to understand the world. I cannot accept Dr Neil Gascoigne's suggestion that it is merely another social construct.

Contrary to Dr Jonathan Cross, who wishes to put the blame for nuclear weapons on scientists, in the building of

the atomic bomb scientists behaved in a most moral way — they informed their government what was possible and contributed to the war effort.

I agree with Dr Susan Michie that the decisions as to what research to fund can be value-laden if one has a particular end in view.

We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter letters are more likely to appear

A Country Diary

LANGTANG, NEPAL: To name such a stunning bird after an 18th century judge impeached for corruption, as the British once did, now seems positively demeaning.

national bird, danphe is regularly hunted. Fortunately, in the Langtang National Park north of Kathmandu the moral is as common and easily seen as a national bird should be.

Never mind the claret, feel the policy

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

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Will football mend these historical wounds? First, a few problems have to be solved, such as whether both countries automatically qualify and where the final match will be held.

crat was a visual version of a diary in a society magazine. It is neither my intention nor my wish to defend Roy Jenkins from the charges of elitism and snobbery which the programme made against him.

Halfway through the programme an ancient foot of film revealed the young Roy Jenkins addressing Labour's annual conference. The dismissive flapping of the hands has survived the years. But

the political imperatives have not. This party, Jenkins declared, was created to change the nature of society.

As a study of the tennis moves of the middle-aged, middle classes in rural Oxfordshire, A Very Social Democrat was an undoubted success.

On the day that the book was published I was in Sheffield, awaiting the result of what turned out to be my father's terminal operation

than any of the other aspirants, shared my vision of a free and equal society. By the mid-seventies, I was Jenkins no more. But that was not because he failed to invite me to lunch or dinner.

I can remember the exact day on which I changed my mind. Jenkins was writing a book of essays called What Matters Now.

On the day that the book was published I was in Sheffield, awaiting the result of what turned out to be my father's terminal operation

Jenkins sent him an inscribed copy, which my mother has still. I was enormously impressed by that act of kindness.

I simply do not believe — as several contributors to the programme suggested — that Jenkins lost his chance because of his airs and graces.

What matters in a politician is the principles in which he believes and his chance of putting them into practice.

of goodwill and talent should govern without the handicap of party prejudice is, in my view, dangerous nonsense. But it becomes daily more popular.

The answer is a portrait which, whether or not it diminished Jenkins, certainly denigrated the whole trade of politics.

But anyone who really wanted to know what drives men on to lead, and others to follow, would have more profitably spent their time watching Yes Minister.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Leon Garfield

The past of imagination

LEON GARFIELD, who has died aged 74, was a writer whose work encompassed the broadest range that the term implies.

stable & Co. read the manuscript of Jack Holborn and spotted at once that, if the author was prepared to make minor modifications, here was a writer of great talent whose work chimed in exactly with the developments beginning to take shape in British publishing.

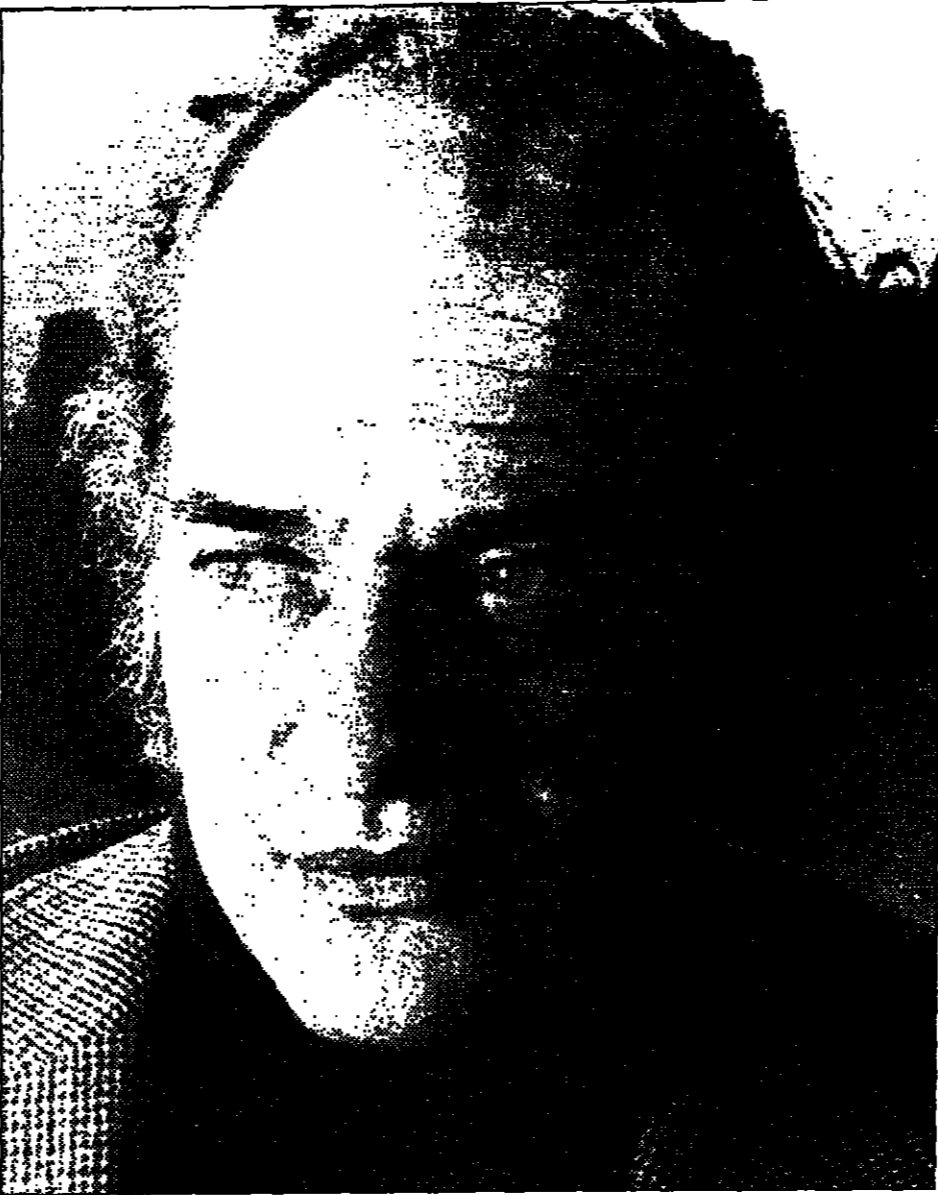
Garfield's language was inspired by the Bible, Fielding, and Dickens

sky... long tail and a great claw dripping down into the sea" Comedy and the macabre satirical and horror come tumbling together in Garfield's fast-moving, complex stories.

field could grab his reader with his first paragraph and never let go. His most famous novel, Smith, begins, "He was called Smith and was twelve years old. Which, in itself, was a marvel: for it seemed as if the small-pox, the consumption, brain fever, and even the hangman's rope had given him a wide berth for fear of catching something.

Another earlier book, The Pleasure Garden (1976), best demonstrated Garfield's ability to appeal both to young and adult readers. About The Mulberry Garden, a place where the young pretend to be old, the old young, the ugly to be beautiful and the poor rich, this earthly paradise is disturbed by murder and its inhabitants are forced into the world outside. Garfield's mixture of symbolism - The Pleasure Garden is a retelling of the Fall set in 18th century London - with adventure meant that while in this country he was read mainly by children, in America he was promoted as a writer of fiction for adults.

Among the prizes won by Garfield (including a number from overseas) was the first Guardian Award for Children's Fiction with Denby-the-Fog in 1968, and the Carnegie Medal in 1971 for The God Beneath the Sea for which,



Leon Garfield... startling use of simile and metaphor

with Edward Blishev, he transmuted the Greek myths into a single story with Hephaestus as the central character. In 1990, he won the Whitbread Award in the Children's Section for John Diamond, and in 1985 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Leon Garfield saw war service in the Royal Army Medical Corps and worked as a technical assistant in the Biochemical Department of a London hospital before becoming a full-time writer - and an occasional critic for this newspaper. He was married in 1949 to Vivien Alcock, a writer and painter, and had one daughter.

neapaper. He was married in 1949 to Vivien Alcock, a writer and painter, and had one daughter. Elaine Moss Leon Garfield, writer, born July 14, 1921; died June 2, 1996

Appreciation: Timothy Leary

Tripping the life fantastic

THE ONLY drug I shared with Timothy Leary (obituary, May 29) was champagne. When he visited Australia's Blue Mountains on his 60th birthday, I had expected a hell-raiser with iridescent eyes and a headband to materialise but it was more like meeting a Confederate officer from Gone with the Wind.

decades, the bursts of yoga meditation, Buddhism, the insights of deep ecology and transpersonal psychology, the shift to holistic health, the shrewd philosophy of cyberspace and so much more, the spores of these social changes were carried on the winds of psychedelia.

He strolled among our mauve rhododendrons with easy grace, surprisingly witty, short-haired and languidly cradling his long stemmed glass and our newborn daughter. Admittedly, his minders danced about in cosmic beanie and silver Data Gloves, inhaling constantly, while the former West Point cadet languidly extolled the virtues of his latest frontier - cyberspace. Not so many, I reflected later, would have entrusted a child with the world's foremost pusher. For that's what Timothy was, ultimately. He pushed drugs, the establishment's buttons, and the frontiers of human experience, as easily as falling off a log.

Leary's first acid trips were a revelation, and he wanted the world to share his cosmic bliss. In the early Harvard "experiments", he took bigger and bigger doses over extended durations, so he could avoid "coming down", revealing the role that denial played in his life. (Yes, he was a lousy husband.) In the end, the eagle and the dove, even the world with our feet on the ground. This he could never accept, and thus the allure of the shimmering silicon galaxies.

I still recall the frisson of shock I felt at his first rallying cry: turn on, tune in, drop out. Oh sure, I muttered, penning a headline in response: turn on, tune in, drop dead. But events got the better of my disdain, as it did with hundreds of thousands of others; and we danced beneath the diamond skies, both arms waving free, forgetting about today until tomorrow. Was Tim a sage or the Devil?

In my sleepy village, when word spread of Leary's visit, frazzled mums arrived at the door with hovers in their hair, lighting up with memories of hash cookies in the Hindu Kush. There was dancing, laughter and star-gazing; my wife exhumed an embroidered skirt from Rajasthan, flashing with mirrors, people said "wow", and we joked about a collective acid flashback. By morning, Mr Tambourine Man was on the plane to California, and I was cutting the school lunches, wishing him well.

Many will rejoice at the death of Timothy Leary the "monster who glamourised drugs". It is true he over-enthused. He was too intent on pushing the horizons to report on the pitfalls for ordinary mortals, and much of today's drug culture is a crucible of tragedy.

But Leary wasn't marketing drugs as a product, he was pushing ecstasy as a political right, and proclaiming chemicals as the key to the kingdom of heaven. If there are, which I doubt, those who, for the most part, should have, after the hallucinations wore off and pop culture moved on, the thirst for alternative realities remained. Laugh as you might at the mystic revival in the West in recent years...

Richard Neville

Geoffrey Dawes

Safe birth by proxy

THE DRAMATIC fall in perinatal mortality (and stillbirths and early neonatal deaths) over the past 35 years owes a great deal to the backstage work of foetal and newborn physiologists of whom Professor Geoffrey Dawes, who has died aged 78, was the foremost exemplar.

Strang, Peter Tizard, Mont Lighthall and others, he effected one of the most successful of the transformations of clinical know-how into science-based medicine that have distinguished modern medicine surgery and obstetrics. On retirement, Dawes devoted his energy zest and organisational skills with comparable success to the Lister Institute, before dying suddenly in what seemed to his many devoted friends and pupils a long extension of the prime of life. Not many men could have claimed to have saved so many lives by proxy. He is survived by his wife the historian Margaret Tawes and his gifted children.

He was appointed at the early age of 30 to the directorship of the Nuffield Institute, Oxford, from where he had graduated with first class honours. Geoffrey Dawes built on the work of Barcroft and Huggert to unravel the particular cardiovascular adjustments made by the lamb and later the monkey foetus to life in the womb, to expulsion therefrom, and to extra-uterine life based on the lung and gut rather than the placenta.

Over and above this systematic scientific study of what such sequential adaptations entailed, he educated a generation of obstetricians and paediatricians in the implications of physiological knowledge for clinical practice in the living in wards. He himself learned from them of the problems that they were faced with and what they needed to know to intervene with success when things went wrong.

It could be said that with his colleague Joan Mott, and in serial collaboration with Kenneth Cross, Leonard

Professor Geoffrey Dawes, physiologist, born January 21, 1918; died May 6, 1996

Preston Lockwood

Of Dales and dachshunds

PRESTON Lockwood, who has died aged 83, was an actor of the old school. That does not mean that he was a booming ham, but that he approached everything with tolerant dedication professionalism, that he had exquisite manners, and a twinkling humour. Fellow actors loved him, particularly the young to whom he gave generous encouragement.

Starting out as Reginald Lockwood, he made his West End debut in 1938 in Troilus and Cressida. It was in war-time that his career as Preston Lockwood began and he became a household name.

ing on the payroll until 1949, "to play as cast" in radio plays, but also as appearing as a presenter, interviewer, and quiz-show participant. These were the days of live radio when, as happened in an over-running Hamlet, the announcer intervened, saying, "And there we must leave Einstein and go over to the 9 o'clock news". The adrenalin rushed, so did the actors, from one underground studio to another, from one role to another.

No change of make-up, just a change of voice and of character. In one year Preston appeared in both Middlemarch and Pride and Prejudice playing to audiences far exceeding those who viewed the recent television productions of these works - and for the merest fraction of the costs. Few programmes were recorded so casts would reassemble and perform again for the repeat later in the week.

Preston had regular roles in radio soap such as Mrs Dale's Diary and the subsequent Waggoner's Walk but the ongoing part for which he became best-known and best loved was at the German sausage dog Dennis the Dachshund in Children's Hour's Toyshop. There are always elements of the visual in radio casting and the thing most noticeable about Preston was his lean longness, a longness of face and of back. Placed horizontally he would, had the legs been shortened, have made a very passable dachshund. To a post-war generation, of which I was one, who had been blackmailed to despise and hate the "Hum", his wise and affable depiction of this small Teutonic hound did much to dispel the propagandised dislike and distrust of a race who



Radio days... Preston Lockwood in 1960. His wise depiction of a Teutonic hound helped alter anti-German feeling

Jackdaw



man was a real take factory. Nostril shot: Unflattering footage of a performer. That last scene with Madonna in a green wig was a real nostril shot. Hairball: A sappy emotional moment in a script. There's usually a hairball in every Friends script. Frame-grabber: A guy or gal who is so famous that photographers flock to that one individual at an event. Even at 80, Frank Sinatra is still a frame grabber. The National Enquirer gives us the latest inset from Ringo essential for those who want to be a Hollywood native.

No beef, please

A BRITISH charity organisation carrying food to refugees in the former Yugoslavia has called a halt to donations of tinned meat - because of the EU beef export ban. Dumfriesline Eurosave is concerned that it may be turned back from the Croatia or Slovenian borders if aid packages contain British meat products. The organisation points out that the food

convoys drive through Belgium and Germany where they would be within their rights to turn us back. The charity has therefore issued publicity releases stressing "No tinned meats, thank you". The mad cow disease spreads even further as reported in the Meat Trades Journal.

Anagrams

The Conservative Party Reach Vain Petty Voters Prime Minister John Major. John Merriment ship 'Major' Michael Besselin I'm the senile leach Kenneth Clarke Ken rant heckle Michael Howard Ha ha! Mr idle cow Peter Lilley Yell pert lie Virginia Bottomley I am violent bigotry Sir Patrick Mayhew A streaky rich wimp William Waldegrave I'm a vile lewd rag law Gillian Shepherd Headsh rapid nag Michael Portillo

Hell I'm coital pro Stephen Dorrell Leper led NHS riot The Labour Party Upebat harlotry Tony Blair 'n only prat Right Hon John Prescott MP NHS project hot romp thing Donald Dewar MP Mad and lewd pro David Blunkett Devil dunk butt Michael Meacher I am arch leech me Gavin Strang Starving nag George Robertson Sober gent or gre Maxine goes political anagram crazy

Flashback

ISOLATION affects people in different ways, and island life can be utterly surreal. There was a lighthouse keeper on Pladda whose wife lived less than a quarter of a mile away on Arran. She was learning to drive and he would use Morse code with a torch at night to ask her questions on the Highway Code. Three

goats on Hyskeir in the Outer Hebrides insisted that humans and goats walk in sequence across the island; if they failed to do they would be butted into place. The correct order, if I remember rightly, was goat, human, goat, human, goat. Peter Hill reflects on strange days and nights as a lighthouse keeper in The London Review of Books

Pipe power

AS LEGEND has it, Hassan built his infamous walled garden, a mythical rival to Kubla Khan's pleasure dome, the memory of which survived the passage of time to be recalled by Marco Polo in 1278, nearly 300 years later; "He had made in a valley between the biggest and most beautiful garden that was ever seen, planted with all the finest fruits in the world and containing the most splendid mansion and palaces known to man, ornamented with gold and with likenesse of all that is beautiful on earth; and also four conduits, one flowing with

wine, one with milk, one with honey, and one with water. There were fair ladies there and damsels, the loveliest in the world, unrivalled at playing every sort of instrument and at singing and dancing. And he gave his men to understand that this garden was Paradise. "No man was allowed to enter the garden save those whom he intended to be his



Idler: legend celebrated

Ashishin. At the entrance stood a fortress strong enough to resist all the world and here The Old Man kept in his court a number of youths, from twelve to twenty years of age, such as had a taste for soldiering. And to these he used to tell tales about Paradise, just as Mahomet had been wont to do, and they believed in him just as the Saracens believe in Mahomet. Then he would introduce them into his garden, some four, or six, or ten at a time, having first made them drink from a certain potion that cast them into a deep sleep and they were taken and put in the garden. When they awoke and found themselves there and saw all the things I have told you of, they believed they were really in Paradise. And the ladies and the damsels stayed with them all the time, singing and making music for their delight and ministering to all their desires. The potion was hashish, dealt out to only a chosen few. It allowed Hassan the power to convert and was kept, along with the beautiful dam-

sels, as a reward to his most loyal followers, the Assassins. "Then, in order to bring about the death of the Lord or other man he desired, he would take some of the assassins and send them wherever he might wish, telling them he was minded to dispatch them to Paradise; they were to go accordingly and kill such and such a man; if they died on the mission, they would go there all the sooner." The Idler celebrates the legend of Hassan-i-Sabbah, "The Sheikh". Half documented fact, half Madieval fantasy he was the man who managed to hold the whole of the Middle East to ransom through the use of a well thought-out strategy of awe, desire and death and is the founder of the suicide bomber as we know him.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3ER. Emily Sheffield

Better off as 51st state

Defining right strategy for investment

DEBATE/Focus on causes not symptoms, says DAN CORRY



Larry Elliott

Cultural links lie across the Atlantic bridge

IN THE shadow of Tower Bridge, a few yards from where the grey-bearded Beefeaters strut and pose for pictures, people are playing petanque, a game of bowls popular in the south of France.

For some it might be symbolic — a sign that Britain's traditional isolationism is being eroded by European culture, whatever the shenanigans in Brussels over beef bans, fish quotas and resolute non-cooperation.

But while the analysis is right — that culture drives economics and politics rather than the other way round — the conclusion is wrong. Britain may get 50 per cent of its imported goods from Europe, but it gets 95 per cent of its culture from the United States. Like it or not, popular culture here has been shaped by Walt Disney, Elvis Presley and Ronald McDonald rather than François Truffaut, Johnny Halliday and Paul Bocuse.

There is no sense of this ever changing. Britain understands America in a way that it will never understand Europe, because the mass media is the driving force behind the modern world, and that is where America's dominance is total.

Think about it for a moment: we may originally have given America its language, but the flow of new words and slang is now all the other way. We can discuss in detail the latest Quentin Tarantino movie, but have no interest in the latest French smash (unless there's the prospect of some vigorous Gallic humping). We're interested in Madonna, we all feel we know New York, we take an interest in American politics.

Britain's cultural subordination to America has long been recognised and in the past there was considerable resistance to the idea that we were becoming the 51st state. However given that one of the great themes of the new world order is that the nation state is as passé as sideburns or Dixon of Dock Green, it may be time to look at whether we should be looking West rather than East.

Despite the fact that it is hard to pinpoint one economic benefit Britain has secured from being in Europe, the assumption is that there is no real alternative to the European Union. It may not be perfect, but Europe is only 20 miles away across the Channel and it's all there is.

This is a rather old-fashioned notion, rooted in the take-it-or-leave-it days before the triumph of consumer choice. There may be 3,000 miles of ocean separating us from the Eastern seaboard, but these days distance is supposed to be irrelevant. All the gurus tell us that we are now part of a global village in

which brain power is all that matters and the end of geography is nigh.

As such, it shouldn't matter whom we link up with, provided we link up with somebody, its cheaper to fly to Miami than to Florence.

A more compelling argument would be that it is in Britain's interests to move away from an Anglo-Saxon model of capitalism towards a continental model. We should have nothing to do with the deregulated hire-and-fire culture of the Americans, but instead should copy the Rhenish model of stakeholder capitalism.

The problem is, however, that just as some of the Anglo-Saxons are waking up to the fact that labour market flexibility is not an economic panacea, all the nice Rhenish capitalists are embracing structural reform with all the zeal of converts.

What's more, in terms of dynamism, and being at the cutting edge of the sunrise industries — biotechnology, micro-processors, multi-media — the Americans are leaving the Europeans for dead. The firm-based industrial culture that is so prevalent in Europe is starting to look a bit tired, particularly when set against the vibrancy of the American small and medium-sized sector, where networking and rapid movement between firms has led to innovation and excitement.

THERE is a good macroeconomic reason for America's dynamism. The crisis for the US this century was the Great Depression, and ever since policy has been dominated by the fear of mass unemployment. For Germany, the key event was the hyperinflation of 1923, and the Bundesbank is still haunted by the image of people pushing wheelbarrows full of money through the streets.

In the 30 years after the war the triumph of the American way led to full employment and strong growth. The 20 years in which the Bundesbank has prevailed have seen jobs sacrificed on the altar of inflation.

Being part of a dollar zone would almost certainly be more expansionary than being part of a mark zone, particularly if it involved liberation from the Common Agricultural Policy. Access to cheap American food would bear down on prices, making it easier to hit the inflation target at higher levels of demand.

Any supporters of closer integration with the US could easily come up with their own three-point plan, modelled on the Delors blueprint for a single currency. The first

stage would be to apply for British membership of Nato to form a transatlantic free trade area.

An idea similar to this has already been floated by the Government, although at this stage its vision involves a link between the US and the EU. But the notion is obviously feasible and would give Britain's one truly world-class industry — pharmaceuticals — a head start in the lucrative American health care market. The inducement for the Americans would be that they would get reciprocal access to Britain's \$8 billion consumer market.

The second stage would be to press for full monetary union, to allow the pound to be part of a dollar zone. This would give the pound protection from currency speculators and mean there would be no transaction costs — two of the main reasons advanced for supporting EMU. Selling this idea to the British public would no doubt be tricky, but no less difficult than marketing the Euro is going to be.

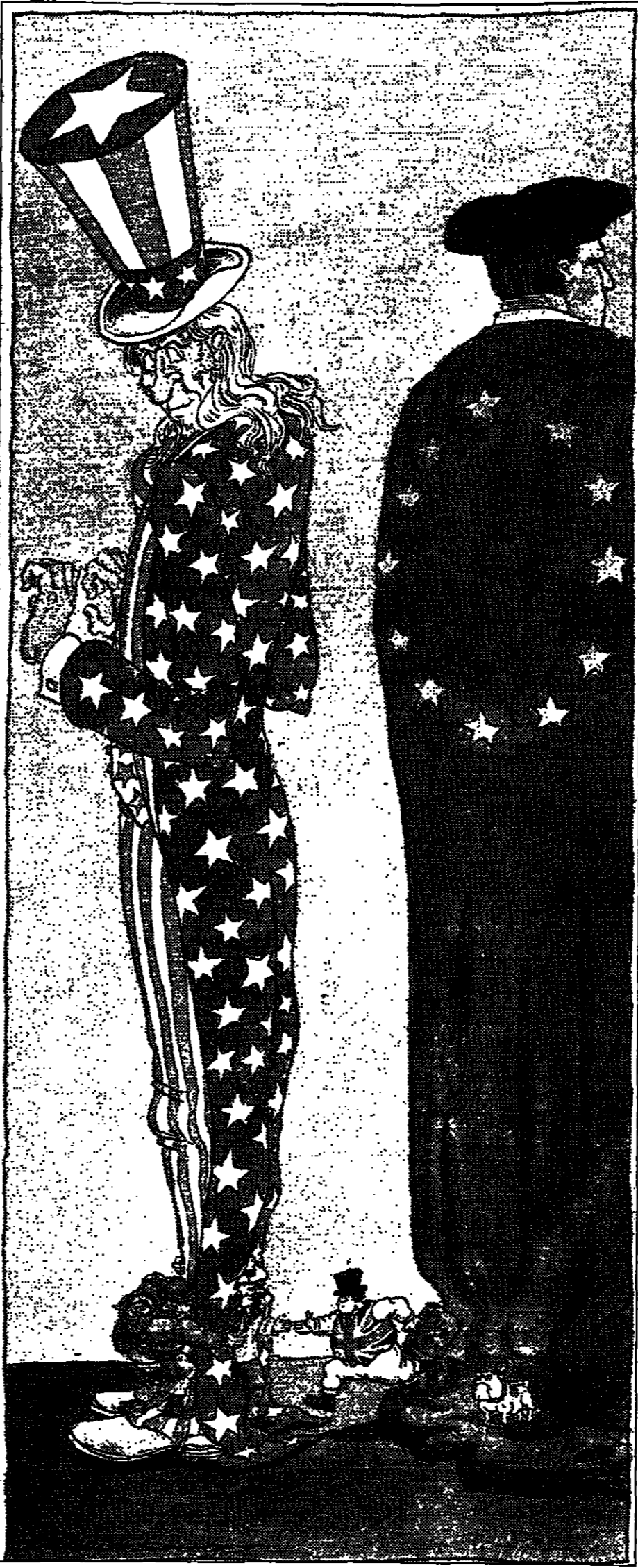
The third and final stage would be the full integration of Britain into America as the 51st state. Now, as the propaganda for a federal Europe have told us, this would have to happen for us to gain the full benefits of the monetary union project and any faint hearts and xenophobes would quickly see the folly of clinging on to outmoded views of national sovereignty.

In fact, Britain would really clean up. The UK would be the biggest state in the union and would have the most votes in a revamped electoral college. No president would be able to win without Britain on his side, so the scope for pork barrel politics would be enormous.

The more you think about it, the better the fit becomes. First, it keeps everybody satisfied — from the rabid free marketeers on the right to the bully-boys on the left who were once accused by Orwell of secretly hating their own country and wanting to see it subsumed into a greater whole. The constitutional reformers get the separation of powers and a Bill of Rights, the military get a whole load of new toys to play with, and the rest of us can teach our new relatives how to play rounders properly.

Put simply, the three main obstacles in the way of making a single currency work are language, wage flexibility and a mechanism for fiscal transfers. These look insurmountable in a European context, far less problematical with a dollar link.

Of course, there are things we wouldn't want. Such as the death penalty, the walk-to-wall lawyers and the health fascists. No problem. We could always negotiate a couple of opt-outs.



INVESTMENT is in danger of becoming a fetish for the left but this approach leads to lazy analysis. Instead of a strategy for making Britain more competitive, we get a mind-numbing mantra about the need to invest more.

Of course there is a problem. But investment is a symptom of what is going wrong in the British economy, not its cause.

Investment is an area where markets do not work well enough — even for New Labour. As Cairn Driver explains in the summer issue of *New Economy*, one firm's investment helps all the other firms too, as technology and knowledge spread and better supply becomes available.

This means that the amount of investment the market throws out will be lower than society needs and, if we just push up demand, assuming that this will lead to higher investment, we get inflation, causing even a nice Blairite government to put on the brakes well before any investment comes on stream to match new demand.

Michael Heseltine claims that, despite all this fine theory, we do not have too little investment. In the new, lean, deregulated Britain, we can produce the same output with less investment: the fact that the UK ratio of investment to total output (at market prices) now stands at 15 per cent, its lowest point in the last 35 years, doesn't worry him.

Maybe we can now do more with less, but why are we so far out of line with other countries? Over the 1980s the UK ratio of 17.5 per cent was far below our European Union competitors at over 20 per cent, with Japan at 30 per cent. Even the free-market US, which we shadowed in earlier decades, was above us in the 1980s.

But these overall figures hide as much as they reveal. Analysis shows that the money going into public sector investment since 1980 has grown at just half the rate of the private sector and the answer to this crisis lies firmly with the Government.

Within the private sector we find particular problems in R&D and in manufacturing. Since 1980, investment in manufacturing grew in cash terms by 80 per cent, while in the financial and related sector it grew 250 per cent and now exceeds that in manufacturing.

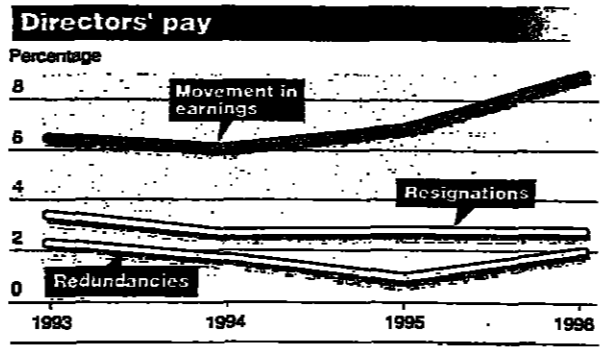
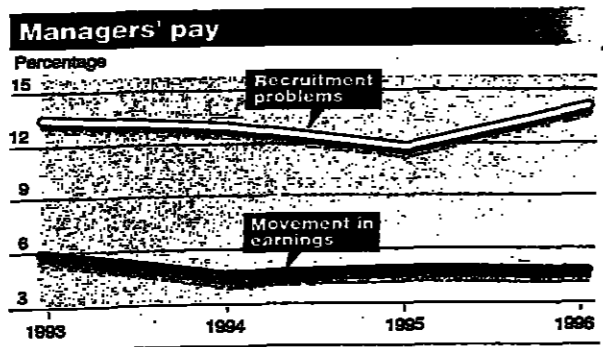
This might lead one to advocate policies geared to increasing investment only in manufacturing. However,

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.6590	France 7.7025	Italy 2.333	Singapore 2.11
Austria 16.06	Germany 2.2825	Malta 0.5440	South Africa 6.50
Belgium 46.85	Greece 364.40	Netherlands 2.5575	Spain 192.40
Canada 2.0525	Hong Kong 11.56	New Zealand 2.1925	Sweden 1.8675
Cyprus 0.7025	India 53.77	Norway 9.81	Switzerland 1.8675
Denmark 8.86	Ireland 0.9450	Portugal 236.25	Turkey 114.927
Finland 7.20	Israel 5.07	Saudi Arabia 5.72	USA 1.4975

Supplied by Halifax Bank excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel as at price of business on Friday

Chase for chiefs gaining pace



BRIEFING/Are bosses in short supply? SARAH RYLE continues series on top pay

PAY is supposedly set to reflect individuals' contributions to a company. Judging by the findings of the Guardian's top pay survey, which showed directors' wages grew last year by 19 per cent, that is a lot of added value.

Another economic theory is that the wage increase indicates a decline in the supply of managers with chief executive potential. David Rhoads,

of the consultancy firm SCA, says it has become more difficult to find people who can lead top companies, especially through minefields like downsizing (sacking people).

"Companies can take months to find chief executives. Recruitment firms would not be as successful as they are if it was as easy as putting an ad in the paper."

That does not, however, explain the leaps in earnings ex-

joyed by the likes of Cedric Brown, former chief executive of British Gas, when utilities were privatised.

Mr Brown was more the product of the natural selection that happens within companies, according to Brian Main, professor of economics at Edinburgh University. Over time one senior director becomes the obvious choice for the top job, and later his or her successor is selected in the same way.

One justification for the inflation of utility bosses' pay was that the companies had become international players and their leaders faced increased responsibilities. Another argument, that as leaders of large listed companies they were open to poaching and therefore had to be paid at international levels, was not so strong.

Professor Main says: "It's a very suspect argument, especially in the case of somebody

like Cedric Brown, whose skills are very country specific of British Gas, when utilities were privatised."

When resignations rose slightly in 1995, wages rose 6.9 per cent. In the 1996 survey, however, resignations remained constant but wages grew by 9 per cent.

Another factor may be that deterioration in job security has increased the tendency of managers to move around.

In Japan, Mr Rhoads says, differentials within management pay levels have remained fairly constant because there is still a tradition of remaining with one firm. By contrast, the mobility of American bosses has pushed pay up much more quickly. Given that British firms have begun to import American bosses (Richard Giordano at British Gas, Dick Brown at Cable & Wireless), it would not be surprising if this upward pressure on salaries emerged in the UK.

during those two years slipped back (albeit from 8.5 per cent to 6.1 per cent). Resignations rose slightly in 1995, wages rose 6.9 per cent. In the 1996 survey, however, resignations remained constant but wages grew by 9 per cent.

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Ready to lower the boom

WORM'S EYE/Gain has arrived so prepare for pain, an insider tells DAN ATKINSON

ALARMED, baffled or just plain disbelieving after last week's go-go economic data? Unsure as to whether the surge in consumer credit and house prices is for real? Here, exclusively, a Treasury spokesman answers the questions that you, the people, are asking.

Q: Are last week's figures significant or not?
A: Very significant. They show, at last, that ordinary people, the chap in the street, are beginning to feel the benefits of recovery.

Q: There were those borrowing figures...
A: Tremendous figures. Borrowing on that scale says one thing and one thing only — faith in the future. Confidence.

Q: And house prices?
A: Speak for themselves. Buoyancy, jauntiness, a certain bullishness: that is the message of the house-price rises.

Q: So the feel-good factor has arrived?
A: No doubt whatever. **Q: But didn't Stephen Dorrell say in December 1994 that "feel right" was more important than "feel good"?**
A: Did he? I mean, yes, of course he did, but that was before last week's really first-rate set of economic indicators.

Q: And Kenneth Clarke told Scottish Tories in May 1995 that there would be no return

to the days of "boom and bust"?
A: There won't be.
Q: How can you be sure?
A: Well, what we are seeing now is a solid, long-term recovery built on sure foundations.
Q: That's what they said last time.
A: Quite a few lessons have been learned since then, believe you me!
Q: Such as?
A: Well, to take one example. Last time, the boom peaked during the first two years after a general election. You follow?
Q: Yes.
A: And, consequently, the downturn was somewhere near the bottom at the time of the subsequent election. Still with me?
Q: Right.
A: There is no chance of that happening this time.
Q: Isn't there? This upswing could reach the top of the cycle at the end of 1997 or in early 1998.
A: No it couldn't.
Q: Why not?
A: Because it won't last that long.
Q: Ah. How long will it last?
A: About another week. I should think.
Q: Is that all?
A: Well, the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England meet fairly soon for their monthly pow-wow, and after that — pip, pip.

Q: Why?
A: Oh, because the Governor is going to switch the whole thing off.
Q: Are you sure?
A: Oh absolutely. He hates this kind of thing.
Q: What kind of thing?
A: People borrowing money, people buying houses, people borrowing money to buy houses. That kind of thing.
Q: Isn't that going to make everyone miserable again?
A: Not at all. They should be happy. By taking determined, courageous action to stop all this borrowing and so on, the Governor is safeguarding the really important things in the economy.
Q: Such as?
A: Its international competitiveness, its credibility in foreign exchange markets, its conformity to the standards required for European monetary union.
Q: But if everyone is cheered up by that, won't they show even more confidence, borrow more money and buy more houses?
A: That's entirely possible.
Q: What happens then?
A: Well, that sort of behaviour would, I think, prove the lessons the past have yet to be learned fully. A stiff dose of recession would be called for.
Q: Thank you for joining us. A: A pleasure.

Indicators

TODAY — QIE: Industrial Production (Apr).
QIE: Manufacturing Orders (Apr).
QIE: Unemployment (May).
QIE: Visible Trade (Mar).
QIE: Current Account (Mar).
QIE: Purchasing Manager's Report (May).
QIE: Provisional MD (May).
QIE: Leading Indicators (Apr).
QIE: NAPM (May).

TOMORROW — UK: Official Reserves (May).
QIE: GDP (Q1).

WEDNESDAY — UK: Chancellor/Governor Meeting.

THURSDAY — UK: CBI Distributive Trades Survey (May).

FRIDAY — JPM Tankan Business Survey.
UK: Unemployment Rate (May).
UK: Consumer Credit (May).

Source: HSBC Greenwell

Racing

Illness scare and narrow defeat in French Derby on day of high drama for trainer Chapple-Hyam. Chris Hawkins reports

Flight grounded as Ragmar holds on

POLARIS Flight came within a short-head of winning the French Derby on Saturday as the homebred Ragmar held on in a desperate three-way photo-finish.

Le Destin was another fast finisher in third, with Godolphin's Don Micheleito fourth.

Kinane lodged an objection to Ragmar and Gerald Mosse for crossing, but it was a shade optimistic and the stewards took no action.

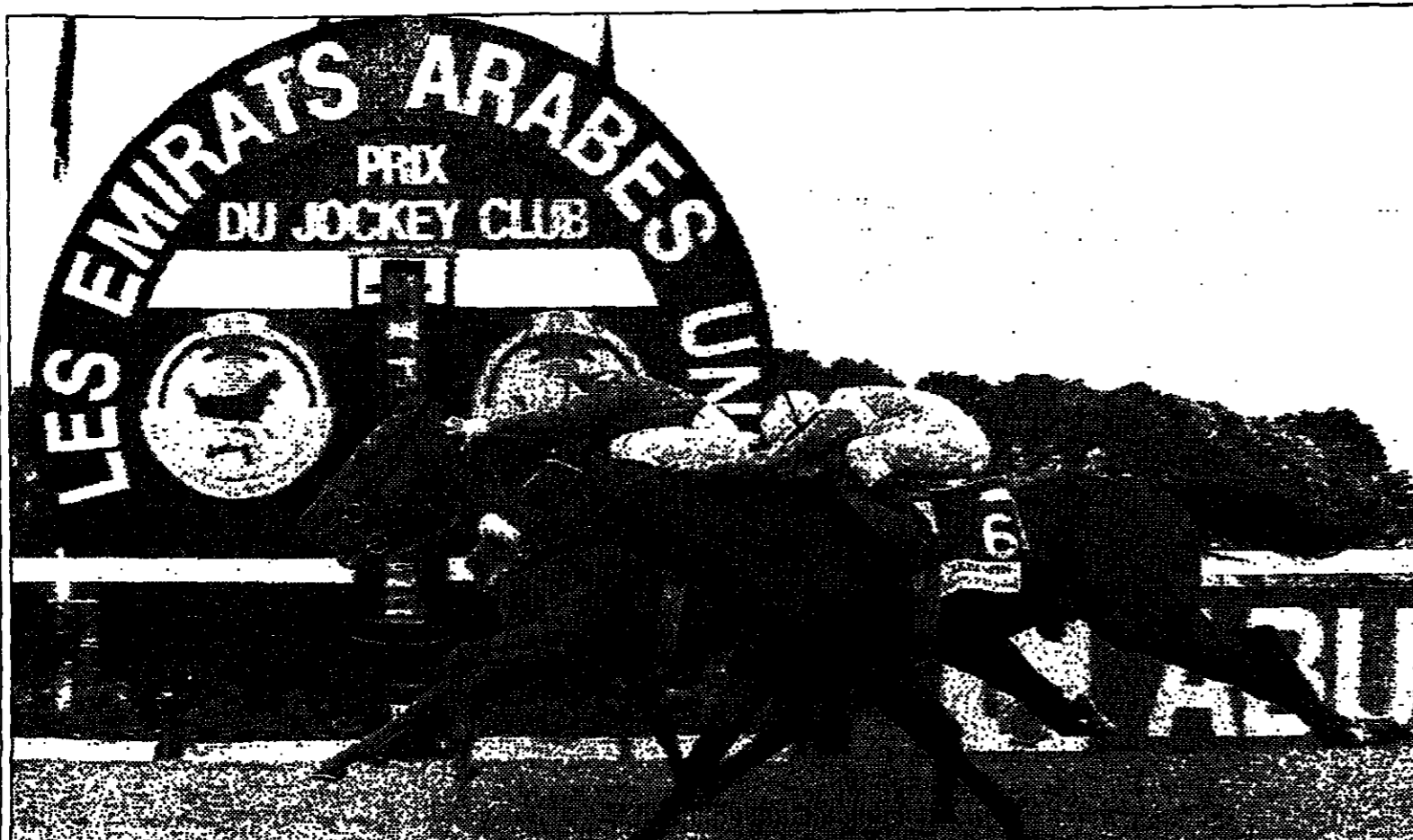
There is no doubt Ragmar did swerve left across Polaris Flight a furlong and a half out, but he was over a length clear at the time and Kinane did not have to stop riding.

"As there was only a short-head in it I thought I was justified in objecting," said Kinane. "He rolled across me and I had to come inside. Ragmar seemed to idle in front and in another half-stride I would have got him."

A palpating finish such as this would not have been what the doctor ordered for Chapple-Hyam, who was taken to the racecourse treatment room after complaining of pins and needles in his arm.

Chapple-Hyam, 33, was admitted to hospital last month after a stress-related problem and was told to diet and cut out smoking.

Emerging after the big race wearing dark glasses, Chapple-Hyam said: "I was able to watch the race and I feel OK. I saw it on television from my bed and it seems that we were unlucky, but that's the way it goes."



On the nod... Ragmar, centre, the partially hidden Polaris Flight and Le Destin, nearside, fight out the finish of the French Derby. PHOTO: JACQUES BRANCO

Polaris Flight and Ragmar met last October in the Critérium de Saint-Cloud when again there was only a short-head in it — the verdict then going the other way — so amazingly the colts reproduced the form almost to the ounce.

Amazing because this was a rough race and both Kinane and Mosse had difficulty in steering clear of trouble. "It got pretty physical," explained Kinane. "The plan was to be in mid-field but I had to drop back and come towards the outside."

Hoist To Heaven made the running as pacemaker for L'Africain Bleu but the gallop was not particularly fast and certainly the favourite Helisio, who eventually de-

beated for fifth, would never settle for Dominique Boeuf. For Mosse this was a second Classic triumph of the season, following his victory last month in the French 2,000 Guineas on Ashkalan, and a second French Derby after his success two years ago on Celtic Arms — trained, like Ragmar, by Pascal Bary.

High Baroque, winner of the Chester Vase from St Mawes, ran well on ground thought to be faster than he likes and faded to finish ninth after two furlongs out.

There is little doubt Polaris Flight improved significantly at this his first attempt at a mile and a half, although Chapple-Hyam was toying earlier in the week with run-

ning him in the Prix Jean Prat over nine furlongs on this card. Regal Archive represented the stable instead but made no impression and finished fifth of six behind Le Triton. Frankie Dettori had no joy on Don Micheleito but won the concluding Prix de Sandringham for Criquette Head on

Sensation.

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Leicester card with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.15 Masham, 2.45 West Humble, 3.15 Daily Sport Girl). Includes race times and odds.

Windsor tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 6.00 Totally Yours, 7.00 Southern Lad, 7.30 Ruff's Pot). Includes race times and odds.

Thirsk tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 6.45 Blinville Flash, 7.15 Southern Lad, 7.45 Ruff's Pot). Includes race times and odds.

Hamilton

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.30 Swift Em, 3.00 Redoubtable Lady, 3.30 Crocote-Cymene). Includes race times and odds.

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Hamilton

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 4.15 Inching Selling Handicap, 4.45 Inching Selling Handicap, 5.00 Maiden Stakes). Includes race times and odds.

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Massini shines to give Stoute double delight

After a series of searching work-outs on the Newmarket gallops at the weekend, Derby betting took on a new look, with Michael Stoute's pair Dr Massini and Double Leaf the best-backed horses for Saturday's Vodafone-sponsored Classic.

Dr Massini has been promoted to clear 4-1 favourite for Epsom with Ladbrokes after reportedly pleasing in his work with the stable's smart older horse, Desert Shor.

Hill's bracket Dr Massini the 9-2 joint favourite, from 5's, with Glory Of Dancer, and they cut Double Leaf to 14-1 on the basis of his good home work since finishing fifth in the Dante Stakes.

Shaamit has been all the rage with Ladbrokes after his "defeat" of Glory Of Dancer in a gallop on Saturday. The firm have cut his odds from 10-1 to 5-1.

But Shaamit's trainer William Haggas refused to get carried away. "He worked all right and I am satisfied, but he went no different to how he has for the past six weeks. He is a genuine horse who works well," he said.

Shaamit, who will be ridden by Michael Hills at Epsom, has not run since he landed a maiden race at Doncaster last November. But Haggas said: "He will definitely be fit enough. We just need some luck in running."

Glory Of Dancer was pushed out from 5-1 to 6-1 by Ladbrokes, but his trainer Paul Kelleway was far from upset with the Dante winner's work.

"I am not worried at all," he said. "You don't want to leave the race on the gallops."

Dushyantor eased half a point to 5-1 with Hill's after he had to be nudged along by Pat Eddery to finish ahead of two stable companions on the Lambkins gallop on Saturday morning.

Storm Trooper looked more impressive in his work, but Dushyantor's effort gave no qualms to trainer Henry Cecil, who said: "They are both fine — Dushyantor is always a lazy worker."

Cecil has not looked for a jockey for his third Derby entry, Clever Cliche. "If the ground is fast he won't run so we haven't even thought about booking a rider for him," he explained.

Cash Amussen will team up again with Barry Hills on Saturday. The American, who rode Blue Stag to finish second in the 1990 Derby for Hills, has been booked to ride Busy Flight.

Mark Birch will make his debut in the race at the age of 45. He has been booked to partner outsider Spartan Heartbeat by Clive Brittain, who gave him his only other Classic ride on St Leger fourth Tertrun in 1989.

Brittain also intends running Acharne (Warren O'Connor) in the Derby but no decision has been made about the participation of Amfortas.

Cecil had little difficulty in notching his 15th straight win as he comfortably repeated last year's success in the \$250,000 Massini Stakes at Sandringham on Saturday night.

This took Cigar's career earnings to \$8,069,815 and moved him within one race of equalling Citation's American record of 18 straight victories. His next target is the Hollywood Gold Cup on June 30.

Seles

Porter can't the price

McCoy's champion season

TONY McCoy, who only lost his right to claim in February last year, is the new champion jockey at the age of just 22. The Irishman's total of 175 winners was 43 more than runner-up David Brigwater.

McCoy's successor as champion conditional jockey is Richard Johnson, who rode 53 winners, and leading amateur Jim Callaghan, whose total of 40 winners was the most in a season by a member of the paid ranks since Richard Smith's 66 winners in 1973.

Martin Pipe took the trainers' title for the sixth time and became only the third trainer to land 2,000 winners over jumps when Robert's Toy scored at Hereford.

Advertisement for RACELINE with phone number 0930 1681 and commentary details.

Advertisement for Guardian top with details about racing news and prices.

Handwritten signature and date: J.P. 1/10/96

Handwritten note in a box: "1550 / 1000"



Maleeva... swept aside



Upwardly mobile... Monica Seles marched into the quarter-finals of the French Open with an impressive 6-1, 6-1 victory over Magdalena Maleeva

Stephen Bierley on a Sunday the adopted American will be glad to put behind her

Seles banishes Hamburg ghost

THERE was an understandable element of torment about Monica Seles's match with Magdalena Maleeva in Paris yesterday, although in the end it was perhaps a kind of release.

The two players had last met on a singles court in 1993, the April day in Hamburg when Gunter Parche stabbed Seles in the back while she was changing ends.

Coming face to face at Roland Garros inevitably stirred memories of that dreadful incident, with Seles admitting that sitting down with her back to the mass ranks of spectators on the Court Centrale, and with Maleeva at her side again, had been "really tough".

All the show courts throughout the world here minders now, and not just for Seles. The stabbing changed

everyone's perceptions of safety and security.

"I said to myself, 'Just keep going and not think about it,'" said Seles yesterday after her 6-1, 6-1 win over the Bulgarian. "I told myself it's just another tennis match."

Maleeva, the No. 13 seed, was asked if the memories of the incident had any effect on her. "No, that didn't bother me at all," she said, adding, with the broadest of smiles, "Neither did it bother her."

Not, certainly, in terms of the way Seles played. There was power in her serve and she snapped into her ground shots without inhibition. A daily routine of ice and heat treatment, combined with stretching and massage, appears to be having a highly beneficial effect on her shoulder injury. More than anything else her confidence has been restored.

Seles said she had not slept particularly well on Saturday night and that she had been nervous during practice before the match. "It definitely helped when I broke Maggie. I just told myself to keep moving. I was really proud that I did that."

Those who know Seles well confirmed that her timing was indeed back. This has nothing to do with her hitting of the little yellow balls, but her ability to start answering questions virtually before the questioner has finished. "Oh boy," she says, and is off and running on any subject from the Pierce dress to her ambitions outside tennis — which, incidentally, include sky-diving. Expect the Nike ad to be a garrulous flying angel any day.

She will next meet Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals.

having beaten the Romanian Irina Spirlea 6-1, 7-5.

Steffi Graf, seeded and ranked joint No. 1 with Seles, had rattled off 14 straight wins over Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, so that to find her 4-0 down in the second-set tie-break was, to say the least, a touch surprising.

Normal service was quickly resumed. Graf winning this rain-interrupted match 6-1, 7-6. Her quarter-final opponent will be the 18-year-old Croatian, Iva Majoli, who beat the Spanish qualifier Gala Leon Garcia 6-3, 6-1.

Garcia, after a third-round win, had described her Paris programme as "Party, party, fiesta, siesta". Yesterday she failed to wake up.

In the top half of the men's draw there were routine wins for Richard Krajicek of Holland, Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Jim Courier and Pete Sampras.

Kafelnikov, who beat Andre Agassi here last year, has not dropped a set so far, yesterday hustling away Spain's Francisco Clavet 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. He next plays Krajicek, who before Roland Garros reached the final of the Italian Open, losing to Austria's Thomas Muster, who continues his defence of a relatively soft 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over Australia's Scott Draper.

Saturday will be remembered for Stefan Edberg's wonderful victory over the No. 4 seed Michael Chang. A combination of brilliant play and Chang's long-term rib injury saw the 30-year-old Edberg soft-shoe shuffle his elegant way to a stunning 4-6, 7-5, 6-0, 7-6 victory. Paris can barely wait for his match today against Switzerland's Marc Rosset. *Allex Stefan.*

Of marginally more interest is whether Sampras will kill Courier in the quarter-finals. Courier has won the French Open twice, in 1991 and 1992, and beat Sampras at the quarter-final stage two years ago, ending his fellow American's hopes of four consecutive Grand Slam titles. After two energy-sapping five-set matches Sampras had the luxury of a relatively soft 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over Australia's Scott Draper.

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Rugby League Super League St Helens 52, Paris St Germain 10

Goulding blow fails to check rampant Saints

PAUL FITZPATRICK

BOBBIE GOULDING, the great motivating force behind St Helens' spectacularly successful season so far, was missing from the game with Paris St Germain yesterday after fracturing his collar-bone in the final tackle of the match against Castleford last Monday.

He may be out for three weeks, but Saints will feel less bad about that after the performance given at Knowsley Road by his replacement, Tommy Martyn. Saints took Martyn off in the 88th minute but by then he had inflicted irreversible damage on Paris.

Two beautiful kicks in the first half brought tries for Prescott and Arnold, and Martyn was the man responsible for his team's first two tries of the second half.

St Helens, who reclaimed the top place in the table, briefly occupied by Wigan after their win at Leeds on Saturday, were 18 points in credit after only 24 minutes and were looking capable of scoring with every move. Paris did well to contain them on an 18-4 interval lead, the French coming back into the game late in the half with a try from the winger Cervello.

It had begun to look ominous for Paris after only three minutes. A flowing move by Martyn, Hammond, Prescott and Cervello ended with the Australian forward McVey bursting over from close range.

Prescott failed to add the goal, but quickly made amends by scoring Saints' second try eight minutes later. The score was the product of a clever reverse-kick by Martyn, but Paris were not helped by injury: Vtokamanu and Torreilles were both lying in pain on the turf as Prescott went over the line.

Martyn produced an even

clever kick for Saints' next try. After breaking down the middle, the scrum-half realised the possibilities on the right and found Arnold with a kick of perfect weight and direction. The young winger had to do no more than pick up the ball and trot over for his 19th league and cup try.

Paris appeared to have no game plan. But Smith threw out a long ball to the wing, it caught the Saints' defence exposed on the fringes, and Cervello had enough space to make the most of his chance. Torreilles was unable to add the goal points but Paris had received the lift they badly needed.

They scored another two points soon after the interval: Hunte seemed harshly treated when he was sent to the sin-bin, apparently for deliberate offside, but Torreilles landed the two points.

Hers was a chance for Paris to take advantage of their superior numbers. But by the time Hunte came back from the sin-bin his side had advanced by another 12 points. First Yaha, behind his own line, split a high kick and Matautia touched down, then Martyn's quick hands sent in Newlove under the post. Martyn improved both scores and St Helens were firmly back in control.

Haigh scored a try in the 58th minute; Joynt got another, the result of running a penalty when Cabestany was in the sin-bin; and Newlove and McVey both got their second touchdowns.

But at least Paris got into double figures when Bonati, one of the real talents in the French side, scored in the corner.

St Helens: Prescott, Arnold, Hunte, Martyn, Hammond, McVey, Vtokamanu, Cervello, Bonati, Cabestany, Yaha, Matautia.
Paris St Germain: Schuster, Perret, Rowley, Seal, Barrick, Haines, Matterson, Schuster, Perret, Rowley, Seal, Barrick, Haines, Matterson, Schuster, Perret, Rowley, Seal, Barrick, Haines, Matterson.

Rowing Porter carries off the prize

CHRISTOPHER DODD in Lucerne

DEREK PORTER, a Belfast-born Canadian, defeated four of last year's world championship finalists for the Rotsee sculling title here yesterday, whereas Britain's three Olympic crews all finished last in their finals.

Porter, the world champion in 1993, took the honours after a very close finish involving the world champion Izok Kop of Slovenia and Germany's Olympic champion Thomas Lange.

In the coxless fours Rupert Obholzer, Greg and Jonny Searle and Tim Foster, having dropped a bit of their late incandescence in Saturday's semi-final involving the world champions Italy and the Olympic champions Australia, were fourth after 500 metres and eventually finished sixth, more than seven seconds behind the Italians.

The crew, who won bronze in 1994 and silver last year, have been in full-time training since Christmas in preparation for the Olympics. "When we settled into our race the other crews were going quicker and that was very worrying," said Jonny Searle.

American Football

Monarchs get burned by the Dragons

Mike Carlson

THE prospect of a London 17 Scotland World Bowl receded yesterday as the Barcelona Dragons edged the Monarchs 7-6 in the rain at the Montjuic stadium.

The Monarchs took a first-quarter lead of 6-0 through two Ruzak field goals but the Dragons responded as Holcomb scrambled twice for first downs and hit Browning for a five-yard touchdown, which Sereydy converted.

Barcelona join Amsterdam and Frankfurt with 4-4 records in the chase to face Scotland in the World Bowl Championship.

On Saturday the Amsterdam Admirals scored with only three minutes remaining to beat the Scottish Claymores 31-27. The Claymores had allowed Amsterdam to take a 10-0 lead during a woeful first half but fought back with three touchdowns in 10 minutes to take a 21-10 lead.

Furrer then connected with Bobo on a 40-yard score for Admirals, but Ballard and La Chapelle replied with one of 32 yards. But Furrer again found Bobo to bring Amsterdam within three points, and Furrer ran 46 yards down the sideline for the winning score.

Sailing

Cayard begins cup campaign

Paul Cayard, who has twice been on the losing boat in America's Cup, has announced his campaign plans for a challenge for the trophy by the St Francis Yacht Club in New Zealand in 2000.

Speaking at the club at the weekend, Cayard was surrounded by his supporters and key staff members of AmericaOne, the team with which he will attempt to wrest the cup back from New Zealand and bring it to San Francisco Bay.

His announcement had all the trappings of American hype; the United States Senator Quentin Cobb led the support for the challenge, and Angela Alloto, a member of the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco, declared that Cayard would be a "modern-day St Francis of Assisi for our government by making a significant contribution to the stability of our financial house" if he proved to be successful.

The team that Cayard has assembled is impressive and carefully chosen. The fund-

raising for this \$30-40 million (\$20-26.5 million) campaign has yet to swing fully into action but there is little doubt that the money will be forthcoming, with Jim Clark, the chairman of Netscape Communications Corporation, as chairman of the board of AmericaOne. Netscape has 75 million "hits" a day on the Internet, a fact that Clark said he thought could be used to raise funds for the syndicate, although he chose not to elaborate.

Clark's company will provide technological support to Cayard, as it did to the Kiwis in 1995. Its speciality is in computer analysis of the intricately detailed design of the hull and its appendages as well as the rig, using virtual reality, which saves considerable time in towing tanks and wind tunnels.

Science Applications (SAIC), part of US design technology in the America's Cup since 1983, is another technological partner of AmericaOne.

Craig Fuller, who helped coordinate Philip Morris's corporate sponsorship of one Australia in the last America's Cup, has been appointed head of marketing and will work closely with Doug Smith, the head of finance. Smith said that already several major companies were waiting to sign sponsorship agreements.

Laurent Esquier, who will be involved in his 10th America's Cup, will be responsible for AmericaOne's operations. He held a similar post with Cayard in Italy's Il Moro di Venezia campaign of 1992, and knows the intricacies of co-ordinating the design and sailing teams.

Bruce Nelson, the designer of Young America, the boat that Cayard and Dennis Conner's crew sailed in the last cup, has been named to lead the design technology.

Sailing

San Francisco sets its sights on 2000.

Bob Fisher reports

PAUL CAYARD, who has twice been on the losing boat in America's Cup, has announced his campaign plans for a challenge for the trophy by the St Francis Yacht Club in New Zealand in 2000.

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The team that Cayard has assembled is impressive and carefully chosen. The fund-

Larson gives champion a starting lesson

Bob Fisher in San Francisco

THE world champion Ed Baird is 2-0 down and in danger of being over-whelmed here in the Brut Cup by his fellow American Morgan Larson, ranked No. 51 but already dubbed "the young pretender".

Larson, a Californian who climbed quickly through the world rankings last year, needs only one more win in their best-of-five semi-final series to go one stage further than he did in this event last year.

In the first race, said Baird, "five seconds went in a vacuum in my mind"; he was almost that far behind when the starting-gun fired, and once ahead Larson increased his lead.

In the second race "those five seconds came back out of the vacuum," said Baird; the world No. 1 was over the start-line early and had to return as Larson took a comfortable lead of eight lengths, a distance Baird could not close.

Paul Cayard of the US and New Zealand's Russell Coutts are contesting the other semi-final. In this echo of the America's Cup challenge, Coutts won the first race after Cayard was over the start-line early. The lead changed twice in the next before Cayard won, and although Coutts won the third by a whisker he was penalised in the fourth by the on-the-water umpires as Cayard passed him at the leeward mark to level the scores once again.

Cayard had defeated John Cutler 3-1 in the quarter-finals, and Coutts beat Australia's Peter Gilmore 3-2. Larson swamped Jeff Madrigal of the US 3-0 and Baird defeated Peter Hohlberg of the US Virgin Islands 3-1. Britain's Chris Law failed to reach the quarter-finals.

Ekoku in Halifax rebuilding society

HALIFAX recorded their first Super League victory at Thrum Hall with a 39-30 Yorkshire derby win over Sheffield Eagles, who initially threatened to run away with the match.

Sheffield's French wing Jean Marc Garcia scored two tries in the first 13 minutes and Mark Aston kicked two goals as Halifax barely ventured into the Eagles' half.

But they clawed their way back, with the young scrum-half Danny Seal, making his full debut, and the hooker Paul Rowley concocting a move which opened a gap for the loose forward Simon Baldwin to gallop through, and four minutes later he scampered over in the corner.

Only four points separated the sides at half-time, after a try by the Eagles full-back Waisale Sovatabua was countered by Seal's plunge under the posts on the Scot's half.

Halifax moved six points clear within eight minutes of the resumption. A break in the 44th minute by John Schuster, who also kicked four goals, allowed Mark Perrett to go, and this was quickly followed by a further

Perrett try, set up by Schuster and Mike Umetaq.

The Eagles hit back to level when Aston's awkward grubber-kick under the posts was touched down by his half-back partner Matt Crowther. A Schuster penalty on the hour put the Blue Sox ahead once more, before more industrious work by Gillespie and a quick pass from Graham Haines gave the much-maligned wing Aki Ekoku his first Thrum Hall try of the summer.

Crowther did run in his second try for Sheffield, following up his own kick, but it was not enough, and Rowley dropped a last-minute goal for Halifax for good measure.

London came out on top in another close affair when they scored a 28-20 win over Oldham. With each club scoring four tries, Barrick's five goals with one from Matterson proved decisive.

Matt Calland scored two of Bradford's 10 tries as they overwhelmed the bottom club Wokington 52-4 at Odsal. Bradford's fifth successive win saw them reclaim third place from Warrington.

Crumb of comfort for Leeds

LEEDS possibly gained more encouragement from their 40-20 home defeat by Wigan on Saturday than from any of their previous nine Super League games this season, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

Some familiar weaknesses were evident by the end but lack of spirit was not one of them, and their first-half performance showed that all is by no means lost for their coach Dean Bell. They were only two points adrift at the interval, but lost their attacking enterprise and defensive security in the second half.

Their teenage hooker Terry Newton, signed from under Warrington's noses, had an outstanding game but was not the only youngster to shine. Wigan too have some marvell-

ous talents emerging in Rob Smyth, Craig Murdoch and Andy Johnson.

Smyth scored two of Wigan's six tries to maintain his position as the club's leading Super League try scorer with 11, and Andy Farrell landed eight goals.

Leeds, for whom Holroyd scored two touchdowns, reach next week's halfway stage of the season in serious trouble but a continuation of this form should improve things.

Wigan's captain Shaun Edwards has been called into England's squad for the European Championship. He replaces Bobbie Goulding, who has a fractured collar-bone. The first game is against France at Gateshead on Wednesday week.

Free watersports tuition

IF you ever wanted to learn to waterski, windsurf or sail, Mark Warner holidays are offering the perfect opportunity. Every Mark Warner Beach Club offers free watersports tuition from expert instructors, and unlimited free use of equipment.

Absolute beginners, novices and those of recreational standard are all well catered for on the waterfront, and

you'll also find yourself well catered for in the restaurant with 3 meals a day and complimentary wine all included in the price tag.

Best of all you can currently make a splash for less in Mark Warner Beach Club in Corsica, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Sardinia. Prices start from \$395.

Call Mark Warner holidays on 0171 330 3131 for details.

His concerns were broader: comic staples such as British Rail and motorway service stations, but also the environment, sexism, racism... It wasn't long before the description he said he didn't want to earn — "smug git in a shiny suit" — stuck.

Ben Elton profiled by Dan Glalster

G2 page 4

Soccer

International: Republic of Ireland 2, Croatia 2

Quinn's late strike foils Croatia

Michael Walker in Dublin

THERE have been times in the past...

But yesterday against Croatia...

The relief was huge. Not only had the Republic avoided another defeat...

Playing only his second international...

The Irish deserved their goals and probably the draw...

Both will have left encouraged; McCarthy certainly was.

The Croatians fielded nine of the side that had begun against England...

However, any disappointment his non-appearance caused...



Irish check-up... Quinn looks on in anticipation as McLoughlin shrugs off the challenge of Asanovic yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

ished bottom of Serie A in Italy...

But Given parried the side-foot shot away for a corner...

Yet at the back Billie Jerkan and Stimac all looked puzzled...

felt the need to move forward their change from possession...

It is not so often that anyone comes across such a player as Boban...

Republic of Ireland: Given (Blackburn Rovers)...

Croatia: Mirovic (Varadero), Stanic (Brugge)...

Wales: Southall (Everton), Bowen (Norwich)...

Wales: Southall (Everton), Bowen (Norwich)...

World Cup qualifier

San Marino 0, Wales 5

Hughes double helps get Wales off the mark

Trevor Haylett in San Marino

IF ONLY international football was always as easy for Wales...

The greatest Welsh away win for 31 years began with Andy Melville's first international score...

Hughes had a hand in the first goal, taking Robins' floated cross on his chest before launching a fierce shot...

Nerves having been settled and with the San-marinese fragile hopes further diluted...

A Pembroke corner on 32 minutes evaded Coleman's leap but fell to Hughes...

The hat-trick Hughes was searching for was thwarted by a fine save early in the second half...

Ryan Giggs had been unable to make anything count despite a number of mesmeric runs...

Five minutes from time the Welsh win was complete when Pembroke rammed home Giggs's low cross from the right...

Wales: Southall (Everton), Bowen (Norwich)...

Victories for fringe four

FOUR of the outsiders for Euro 96 completed their tournament preparations with victories yesterday.

Russia extended their unbeaten run to 17 games with an efficient 2-0 victory over Poland in Moscow...

Bulgaria's ageing team proved too strong for the United Arab Emirates in Sofia...

Turkey, about to make their first appearance in a major competition since 1954...

Italy were equally unimpressive on Saturday when they beat Hungary 2-0 in Budapest...

But although the Italians controlled the midfield, their new-look flat back four appeared uncomfortable...

Sepp Blatter yesterday denied that Fifa had set a precedent by awarding the 2002 World Cup jointly...

Asked by a Swiss journalist if this meant the 2002 joint finals would be an exception...

Blatter confirmed that Fifa's president Joao Havelange had opposed the idea of co-hosting the 2002 finals...

Aston Villa's full-back Alan Wright has signed a new four-year contract worth around £1 million.

Euro 96 claims sale of tickets is 'phenomenal'

Euro 96 is almost a total sell-out, with fewer than 150,000 of the 1.4 million tickets still to be sold...

However, only nine of the 31 matches are sold out, including all three of England's Group A matches...

Kirton was upbeat in the run-up to the first game, England v Switzerland at Wembley on Saturday...

Disappointingly for Scotland, also in England's group...

land, also in England's group, there are still tickets unsold for their games at Villa Park...

Andrew Walpole, a Euro 96 spokesman, said: "Scotland were originally allocated 7,000 tickets for both games..."

The unwelcome publicity came the day after Bert Vogts's side continued their troubling on-field build-up...

Matthäus's latest outburst is certain to infuriate Vogts...

Neil Robinson says Germany are in even greater turmoil than England going into Euro 96

Matthäus fuels Klinsmann row

THE extraordinary row between three of German football's most prominent personalities erupted fresh yesterday...

Matthäus, who blames Klinsmann for his exclusion from Germany's Euro 96 squad, told the German magazine Focus that the former Tottenham striker might leave Bayern before his contract expired...

On Friday Bayern Munich issued a statement saying that Beckenbauer had called Matthäus in to "sharply condemn" his comments...

Beckenbauer also delivered a sideswipe at Klinsmann for sending a fax, with his Bayern team-mates in the national squad...

who reacted to his previous sniping by banning him from the national team for good.

Asked if Klinsmann might move to another club, he said: "It's conceivable, although he still has a two-year contract."

Beckenbauer also delivered a sideswipe at Klinsmann for sending a fax, with his Bayern team-mates in the national squad...

lenged his team-mate to a live television debate to resolve the row...

"I was captain. I once dealt directly with the national trainer. I was the most important link to the DFB...

Beckenbauer also delivered a sideswipe at Klinsmann for sending a fax, with his Bayern team-mates in the national squad...

ending a fax, with his Bayern team-mates in the national squad, to the club urging it to make its view clear on Matthäus's behaviour...

"I got the fax from the national team players and I have to ask: What on earth are they doing?"

Beckenbauer also delivered a sideswipe at Klinsmann for sending a fax, with his Bayern team-mates in the national squad...

Advertisement for Energize Haliborange Active Glucose Plus Multivitamin Tablets. Text includes: 'SEVEN SEAS Health Care', 'Energize', 'Haliborange Active', 'Glucose Plus Multivitamin Tablets', 'FOR ALL GOOD SPORTS'.

Rugby Union Wales face Campese test

David Plummer

DAVID CAMPESE's retirement was put on hold yesterday when the Wales scrum-half was recalled as Australia made dramatic alterations for Saturday's first Test against Wales.

The New South Wales wing, the scorer of 63 international tries, had threatened to hang up his flying boots...

Although leading their Test front five and first-choice half-backs, Wales had neither the forward power nor the defensive organisation to counter a rampant ACT side...

Australia kept faith with only six players from the previous Test - Matt Burke, Tim Horan, Joe Roff, Daniel Mann, John Eales and Ewen McKenzie...

Although nine points ahead after 35 minutes, Wales reached half-time 34-33 down. Their fly-half Neil Jenkins kicked two early penalties...

Eales will captain the side, which includes three new caps in the flanker Owen Finegan, hooker Marco Caputo and prop Richard Harry.

Finegan and Caputo made an impact for ACT in the recent Super 12 series and Wales too felt the force of their emergence...

Although leading their Test front five and first-choice half-backs, Wales had neither the forward power nor the defensive organisation to counter a rampant ACT side...

Australia kept faith with only six players from the previous Test - Matt Burke, Tim Horan, Joe Roff, Daniel Mann, John Eales and Ewen McKenzie...

Although nine points ahead after 35 minutes, Wales reached half-time 34-33 down. Their fly-half Neil Jenkins kicked two early penalties...

Steve Williams then cashed in at the back of a line-out before Howley rounded off a penetrating attack.

By the time Howley scored again and Jenkins converted, Wales, who had opened the tour with a 62-20 victory over lowly Western Australia, had been well and truly thrashed.

SOCCER: ACT: Tyson, Pot, A, Howard, Larkham, Gagan, Finegan, Hardy, Robinson, Cornerstone, Knox, B, Pendergast, Pross, Walters, Tyson, Howley, C, Hill, Williams, Cornerstone, Jenkins, 2, Gwilliams, Jenkins, 2.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: S Larkham, M Hardy, A Magro, P Howard, J Roff, D Knox, G Robinson, P Noriega, M Caputo, E McKenna, L Langanford, G Hill, P Finegan, B Robinson (capt), O Finegan.

Wales XV: C Cornock, P Pontypridd, S Hill (capt), S Davies, R Jones (both scrum), S Thomas, R Jones (both scrum), R Howley (scrum), G Leader (scrums), J Humphreys (scrum), G Howley (scrum), D Jones (scrum), A Gabe (scrum), H Taylor (scrum), S Williams (scrum).

Sport in brief

Motor Sport

Britain's world champion Colin McEneaney holds a healthy lead after the first day of the Acropolis Rally in Greece...

Cycling

Chris Boardman beat a strong field in the time-trial prologue of the Dauphiné Libéré...

The Italian champion Gianni Bugno won the 15th stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday...

Chess

Garry Kasparov, the world No. 1, was relegated to third yesterday when Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov tied for first prize at Seville in the strongest-ever tournament...

the strongest-ever tournament, writes Leonard Barden. The 21-year-olds from Russia and Bulgaria have both out-pointed or defeated Kasparov in recent competitions.

Athletics

Clova Court will concentrate on the 100 metres hurdles rather than the heptathlon at the British Olympic trials...

Rugby Union

Ireland booked their place in next year's World Cup Sevens finals in Hong Kong...

Exclusive: Lion in England strip drinks pint of lager.

Exclusive: Lion in England strip drinks pint of lager. http://www.cansberg.co.uk

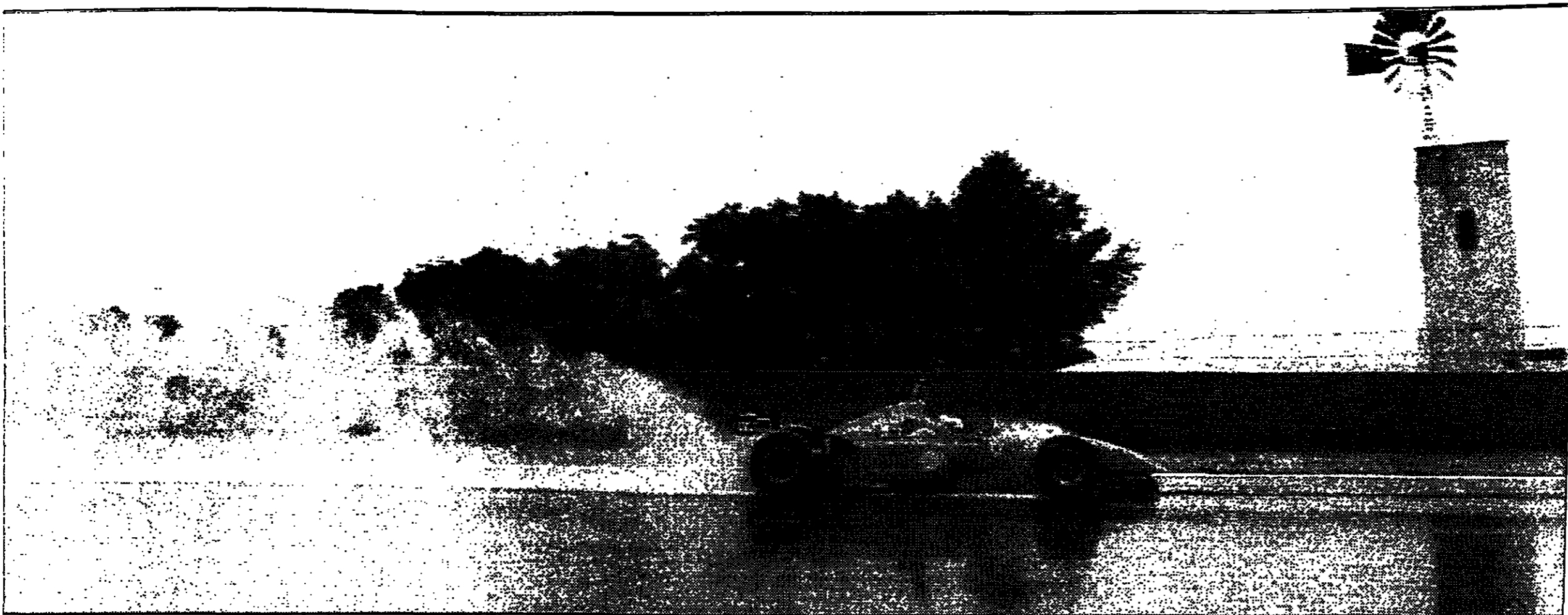
Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Text includes: 'Montgomery Victory while', 'To advertise The Guardian', 'call 0171'.

Flight grounded at Chantilly, page 12
Irish hold on to Euro 96 stars, page 14

Seles shrugs off the bad vibes, page 13
Double for Captain Invisible, page 15

Sports Guardian

SPANISH GRAND PRIX



Rainproof... Michael Schumacher surfs towards his first victory since joining Ferrari and the team's first since Jean Alesi won in Canada 12 months ago. Alesi was second in a Benetton and only six cars finished PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFORD

Schumacher is master of the rain in Spain

Alan Henry in Barcelona

MICHAEL Schumacher produced one of the greatest wet-weather drives in history to secure an overwhelming victory in the Spanish Grand Prix yesterday — his first win for Ferrari.
His triumph opened up the world championship after the points leader Da-

mon Hill spun off the near-flooded Circuit de Catalunya and crashed his Williams-Renault into the pit wall. "I am just relieved to be in one piece," said Hill. "I am pleased to be out of the race."
Schumacher won by more than 45 seconds from Jean Alesi's Benetton to move into joint second in the championship, on 26 points with Hill's team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, who fin-

ished a strong third in only his third race in rain. Only six of the 20 starters finished.
At the finish the world champion was mobbed by his mechanics, who were celebrating Ferrari's second win in 31 races and their first since Alesi won in Canada 12 months ago.
Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who escaped unhurt from a crash in the warm-up which shattered the rear of

his Sauber, was fourth in the spare car. McLaren's Mika Hakkinen and Ligier's Pedro Diniz finished fifth and sixth.
Such was Schumacher's mastery that his victory became probable once he had surfed through into the lead on lap 12, having overcome a slight problem with his clutch at the start.
However, he also had to contend with a mechanical problem from half-distance

when his V10 engine lapsed on to nine cylinders and ran slightly erratically through to the end of the race. The handicap might have affected the outcome had conditions been dry, but in such heavy rain the world champion's skill was the deciding factor.
"At half-distance, around lap 33, I just had about eight or nine cylinders working, which wasn't too pleasant because I worried

that it would be difficult to finish, but the car stayed together," he said.
Hill made a poor start from pole position, suffered two spins and was running a lowly eighth when his race ended on the 11th lap. "I made three mistakes and had the wrong set-up on the car," he admitted. "It was really down to me what happened today."
He said of the rain-swept track: "The big problem is

visibility. At the end of the first lap I went down the straight and there were cars on the right and people working on one on the left and I didn't see them until I was on top of them. You just cannot see the road ahead at all."
Villeneuve had got away to lead into the first corner from Alesi's Benetton, with Hill disappearing into an opaque wall of water as he dropped to third. Further

back, the inevitable chaos saw David Coulthard's McLaren collide with Ricardo Rosset's Footwork, prompting Pedro Lamy in the Minardi to brake hard only to be collected by his team-mate Giancarlo Fisichella.
Other casualties were Eddie Irvine's Ferrari and Johnny Herbert's Sauber, both of which spun off, and Martin Brundle's Jordan had gearbox problems.

Gazza pleads innocent

Martin Thorpe on the trail of guilty England players



Venables... detective

IN WHAT could have been a scene from an Agatha Christie thriller, the suspects in the Great Cathay Pacific Mystery found themselves gathered at a charming country hotel last night being grilled in a whodunnit.
As in all detective stories, the early evidence had pointed towards an obvious suspect, in this case Paul Gascoigne. Today the script is likely to take a twist worthy of Hercule Poirot: Gascoigne's accusers may have got the wrong man.
The part of the hard-bitten detective was being played by Terry Venables, the England coach, who had been proceeding in a westerly direction on the flight back from China, when £5,000 damage was perpetrated on two video screens and a table.
Venables had been oblivious of any trouble, but the finger of suspicion was immediately pointed at Gascoigne, guilty by reputation. Yesterday, however, the FA spokesman Steve Double revealed before last night's interrogation: "People have jumped to dangerous conclusions over exactly who was to blame."

Venables said that although he would take disciplinary action if any were needed, "from what I hear, and we have been as thorough as we can, my information is that Paul Gascoigne has been very hard done by. There has been no evidence to incriminate Gascoigne".
The player himself had told one newspaper: "You should write an article saying I am innocent. That would help my case." Venables added that Gascoigne was considering taking legal action against his accusers.
It is now understood that two other England players may have been behind the in-flight damage. Last night Venables was determined to unmask the culprits, as the England squad reported to the Berkshire hotel that will be their base for Euro 96.
"When I do find out how this could have happened, who did it and why, I will read the riot act," he said. "I will hold an inquiry. If there are people to be punished they will be punished."
The names of the guilty parties are expected to be unveiled today.

Youth gets its day to cure England

Mike Selvey

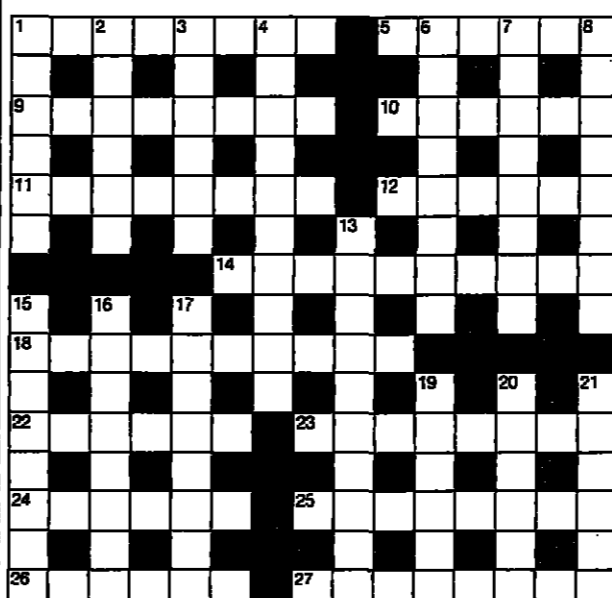
THE selectors have begun the process of resuscitating English Test cricket which, after showing reasonably rude health for much of the southern hemisphere summer, suffered an unforeseen and severe setback during a potty hour on a sunny Cape Town afternoon.
Major surgery was prescribed and yesterday five players from that disastrous final Test — Alec Stewart, Robin Smith, Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm of the senior men, in addition to Mike Watkinson — learned they had been discarded when Raymond Illingworth announced the first Test squad of this summer.
Youth, exuberance, agility and temperament were key words that came up during a brief 40-minute meeting in Manchester on Saturday evening.
Back into the batting line-up come Nick Knight and John Crawley, who had lost their places after injury, together with Nasser Hussain, the last of whose seven Tests was three years ago.
The seam bowling will be lent variety by the left-arm pace of Alan Mullally and the return of Chris Lewis, and, if a spinner should play on Thursday, it would mean a first cap not only for Kent's left-armed Min Patel but also

for the Essex all-rounder Ronnie Irani, who would take the place of a front-line batsman in the interest of balance.
The Birmingham pitch is said to have an even covering of grass, a good deal of which will probably be left there, given the nature of India's attack and the way their batsmen treat opposing spinners.
"We are waiting to have another look at the pitch on Tuesday and Wednesday before making a final decision," said Illingworth. "If we decide to play Patel as our spinner, then Irani will also come in at No. 6."
Should the need arise, Patel, born in Bombay, would not lack for temperament. He has a languid, rhythmical action — a bit "army" at times but he is working on it — knows one end of the bat from the other and is a brave short-leg fielder.
The selectors had, said Illingworth, started from scratch and decided to lean more towards youth: Crawley and Irani are 24, Patel 25 and Mullally 35. Only Hick, just turned 30, and Russell, 32, are older than the captain Mike Atherton, who is 28.
The main debate centred on the batting, which Illingworth admitted yet again had not functioned as a unit during our winter. Knight's return was widely forecast and he has scored heavily for Warwickshire this season. As a left-hander he will provide a counterpoint to Atherton.

Stewart might have been given a final opportunity at three, but now Hussain will probably get the job. The alternative would be Crawley, who covets the position through personal self-belief, even though No. 3 has long been regarded as an all-rounder. He deserves another chance after tearing his hamstring in Durban.
It was considered that Stewart's footwork has been faulty, perhaps a legacy of 'The Oval pitch where pace and bounce are so true. He is on standby, however, in case Knight, who has a cracked left index finger, has failed to come through his Sunday league match unscathed.
Hussain's credentials have been strengthened by a very good England A tour to India as captain, and a markedly less volatile character than he showed when part of the then bratpack of promising youngsters. "He's settled down," said Illingworth, "and he desperately wants it."
Mullally, who gets his chance ahead of Mark Ilett, Simon Brown and Mike Smith, is there because the selectors believe that a left-arm bowler who can swing the ball in to right-handers is a key weapon against India.

Guardian Crossword No 20,669

Set by Crispa



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,662
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Dr. C. R. Fletcher of Aberystwyth, Wales, P. Thomas of Ventnor, Isle-of-Wight, Hampshire, Mr. I. Frabizi of London N21, Mr. C. Thorpe of West Kirby, Lancashire, and J. Bury of Plympton, Devon.

- Across**
- Force providing many a seaman with work (8)
 - Result broadcast in Northern Ireland (6)
 - Turn informer — and to turn informer could mean prison (8)
 - Tries to catch crooks (6)
 - Selected — about time — so practised (8)
 - As the heartless fool said about flowers (6)
 - Chain-store designed specially for people on their own (10)
 - The beauty appears to accept wrinkles (10)
 - Publicity's hold over one good-looker (6)
 - Finding school filling in time, blow up (8)
 - Plan a camping holiday? (6)
- Down**
- What tradesmen need is practice! (6)
 - Hold out for a caretaker (6)
 - The rogue responsible for Clara's breakdown (6)
 - Reading about medical reverse and being censorious (10)
 - Giving pounds and pounds or a large figure for a letter (8)
 - Allow the French following to dress down (8)
 - Uneasy, having no support (8)
 - He wrote the novel "The Comets" (10)

- Saving a little in middle-age (8)
- Sense hesitation in a foreign dealer (8)
- A combination that makes a nice change after all (8)
- Top-up time for the first course (6)
- Debate about price-fixing (6)
- Note and coin newly issued (6)

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